Members: Gus Birkhead (Alpha Gamma); Craig Blakely (Alpha Tau); April Brown (Eta); Glyn Caldwell (Beta Gamma); Noel Chávez (Lambda); Mary Foley (Beta Omicron); Paul Gacek (Beta Rho); Holly Grason (Alpha); Betty Hahneman (Beta Eta); Cynthia Harris (Alpha Mu); Muriel Harris (Beta Pi); Bob Jacobs (Beta Pi); Penny Jessop (Eta); Michael Joseph (Beta Iota); Telisha Miller (Alpha Lambda); Kara Montgomery (Mu); Donald Morisky (UCLA); Beverly Mulvihill (Upsilon); Mary E. Nerney (Pi); Catherine Nolan (Alpha Delta); Nancy Partika (Gamma); Kay Perrin (Tau); Kalpana Ramiah (Omega); Kristy Siegel (Alpha Omega); Jim Torner (Alpha Phi); Sara Vesely (Xi); John C. Williams (Beta Gamma); Richard W. Wilson (Beta Pi); Diane Wynn (Alpha Sigma)

Executive Board: Marie Krousel-Wood, Donna Petersen, Amy Lee, Traci Toomey (not present)

Staff: Kate Howe

The President of the national office, Dr. Donna Petersen, called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

The 2008 agenda was approved as presented, as well as the minutes from the 2007 meeting.

Letters of application from one program of public health was presented and reviewed by the national council. The national council voted to establish:

- **Beta Sigma Chapter** – University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Dept. of Epidemiology and Public Health

Ms. Howe gave the secretary’s report. She reported that most chapters had sent in chapter reports but reminded those who had not to do so as soon as possible in order to provide the National Office with correct contact information. She also asked that chapters who had not filled out a chapter survey please do so. Chapter surveys ([Word doc](#) or [PDF](#)) and [chapter reports](#) can be downloaded on the national website or requested through the national office.

Dr. Lee gave the treasurer’s report. She reported that chapters with outstanding dues or those who the national office had no recorded inductions for should contact the national office as soon as possible if they had not already done so. The financial statement presented to the council members showed that Delta Omega closed the year (ending September 30, 2008) with reserves of $27,779.23. A note was made that there was a significant increase in previous years for copying/printing expenses. It was clarified that this was for bulk printing of national inductee certificates, which would not be a yearly cost.
Dr. Lee then presented the FY09 projected budget. She reported that next year’s projected budget did not include any significant changes. The council voted to approve the budget for FY09. The budget was approved.

The awards committee report was given by Dr. Lee. The student poster session, currently in its eleventh year, featured nineteen student poster presenters. This year was the fifth year that Delta Omega sponsored two poster sessions, and there were almost 30 abstracts submitted this year. Members of the national council were invited to attend the reception immediately following the business meeting to meet the presenters and congratulate them on receiving their certificates and awards. Dr. Lee posed the question as to whether the winners for the student poster sessions should be based on the best abstracts or highlighting research from as many chapters as possible. There was discussion as to whether the decisions should be merit based, and that chapters should institute a vetting process for abstract submissions (if they did not already have one). There was also discussion as to whether there should be a limit to the number of abstracts submitted per chapter. It was suggested that the national office share the criteria for selection in the Call for Nominations so chapters could use the information to help make their selections. Based on the discussion, next year’s Call for Nominations will be revised.

Dr. Lee then presented the 2008 Curriculum Award, and reported that this year there were many outstanding nominations. Dr. Lee presented this year’s award to Dr. Muriel from the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences (Beta Pi) for “Critical Thinking and Program Evaluation.” Dr. Harris then gave a short presentation about her course.

Dr. Krousel-Wood, past-president, gave the governance report. She presented changes made to the constitution and bylaws. Dr. Krousel-Wood reported there was a proposed amendment to by-laws so that the language regarding the transference of membership between chapters more closely reflected the current practice. There was discussion and then a move to vote. The by-laws (3.f.) were amended to reflect the current practice of the transference of membership:

Section 3.f.: Any active member of Delta Omega may choose to become active in a chapter other than the one to which he or she was initially inducted, and may transfer membership. Transfer arrangements should be made among individuals and the chapters involved. The national office should be notified of the change for record-keeping purposes.

Dr. Krousel-Wood then brought up the point that the by-laws and constitution do not specify language for the qualifications to hold the office of member-at-large. At the 2007 meeting, it was voted that the member-at-large would be an elected position, however, the constitution, by-laws and governance manual only include criteria for the position of President-elect. There was discussion as to what those criteria should be, such as “an active member of Delta Omega at an active chapter of Delta Omega,” and the national officers would present language changes (based on that discussion) to be voted on at the 2009 annual business meeting.

Dr. Krousel-Wood then presided over the election of a new President-elect and member-at-large. The nominee for President-elect was Nancy Partika (Gamma), and the nominees for member-at-large were Muriel Harris (Beta Pi) and Joel Lee (Beta Gamma). Nominees present were introduced to the council and nomination letters/CVs were included in the meeting binders. A vote was then held by ballot. After all votes were counted, Dr. Krousel-Wood then announced the new officers: Nancy Partika as President-elect and Muriel Harris as member-at-large. The new officers were welcomed and presented with a membership key pin.
Dr. Petersen presented updates for the publications committee. She reported on the collection of Delta Omega Classics. Dr. Petersen announced the newest addition to the classics, “History of Prematurity” contained two articles on studies of prematurity—one of the proceedings of the American Academy of Pediatrics roundtable discussion on prematurity, and a 1919 study by Arvo Ylppö). These articles also included an introduction by Dr. Hamisu M. Salihu from the University of South Florida College of Public Health. These are all available online at www.deltaomega.org/classics.htm. Dr. Petersen reminded members of the need for written introductions of currently published classics on the Delta Omega web site and directed those interested to contact the national office.

Ms. Howe gave the status of chapter relation reports. She reported on the Delta Omega Mentor Network—a web-based service that pairs public health students or young professionals with Delta Omega members who are willing to give career advice. Ms. Howe reported the network currently had almost 30 members signed up as mentors and encouraged council members to sign-up and promote the network to the local chapters and their alumni, especially those in public health practice. Members can sign-up at www.deltaomega.org/mentorsearch.cfm. She also reported that the mentor network was being advertised to students and young professionals for the first time at the Delta Omega booth at the APHA Exhibition. People in need of public health advice were being encouraged to take advantage of the network, so there is an anticipated greater need to have Delta Omega members sign-up and participate as mentors.

Dr. Petersen announced the induction of Dr. Barbara DeBuono as a national honorary member of Delta Omega. Dr. DeBuono was unable to attend the meeting but had agreed to attend next year’s meeting. She was inducted into Delta Omega in abstentia.

Dr. Lee presented Dr. Krousel-Wood with a gift for her many years of service on the Delta Omega executive council and thanked her for her guidance and enthusiasm in working with Delta Omega.

Dr. Petersen adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and invited everyone to the Delta Omega Reception and presentation of awards for the student poster session in the Library.
Appendix A: Summary of Break-out Sessions

1. **Undergraduate Public Health Society:** (moderated by Dr. Petersen)

There was actually a lot of enthusiasm for doing this, as long as we were talking about undergraduate degree candidates from member schools and programs. (NOTE: there was a question about whether Delta Omega requires its members to be CEPH-accredited –the answer to the question is **YES,** schools and programs with Delta Omega chapters must be CEPH-accredited).

Possible parameters/criteria:

- Induct rising seniors in order to capture their energy for the local chapter during their senior year, others felt as though this should be tied to graduation (NOTE: the group asked that the national office investigate how other undergraduate honor societies work).
- 10 % might be too “loose” of a criterion at the undergraduate level and maybe we should restrict undergrads to the top 5%.
- While Delta Omega should absolutely set a threshold like the top 5 or 10 percent, that we should also proscribe other criteria, such as demonstrated leadership, community-engagement, etc.
- Delta Omega should explore other tokens of membership like salmon-colored rope cords that might be less expensive than pins or stoles (which many chapters apparently find difficult to purchase).

2. **Chapter Awards:** (moderated by Ms. Howe)

There was good discussion as to what type of award could be given by the national office to recognize chapters. It was suggested that since service is such a key component of public health work that a Chapter Service award would be most appropriate. There was discussion as to what criteria could be used for award selection, including:

- Being up to date on chapter reports and induction dues, participation in national office activities (such as the student poster session and the curriculum award);
- Hosting events that include participation of students, alumni and faculty; and
- Documentation of service to the community.

There was discussion that the goal of the award should try to encourage chapters to engage in sustainable, on-going community service activities. Additionally, it would present a chance to recognize those exceptional activities on a national level so that chapters can see what others are doing.

3. **National Partnerships:** (moderated by Dr. Krousel-Wood)

- General comments: It was suggested national office might want to consider sending a free delta omega decal with letter to each new inductee. It was also suggested that Delta Omega generate some type of ID card that can be used by members to access benefits etc.
- The following discounts may be of interest to Delta Omega members: national book companies (like Borders, Amazon.com); prescription drug chains (e.g. Walgreens); rental car and hotel (e.g. Marriott, Holiday Inn); conference discounts; journal discounts (e.g. those that are public health
related); certification test discounts; and maybe training discounts (e.g. Toastmasters, Dale Carnegie etc).

- Suggestions regarding partnerships for national organizations: American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, etc. Could co-sponsor walks, fundraising events, etc.
- Questions regarding the Public Health Leadership Society and how it differs from Delta Omega were brought up. Is this an appropriate collaborator?
- It was suggested that Delta Omega survey the members (specifically the younger ones) to find out what they would consider a benefit.
- Lastly, there was much discussion about getting better hotel rates and options for Delta Omega members to attend APHA. Several voiced dissatisfaction with APHA housing bureau. Claudia Coggin, member of SOPHE and Delta Omega, suggested partnering with SOPHE for better rates.

4. **Mentoring:** (moderated by Dr. Lee)

For mentor network:
- Recognition—mentor of the year award.
- Regular reminders e.g. at least every year with the dues notice. Can include a cover letter.
- Can contact mentors and ask how many students have contacted them. Can also ask them how we can better promote the program.
- Set up expectations guidelines for mentors and students.
- Define our philosophy of program expectations.

General mentor ideas (e.g., for poster abstracts):
- Set up a campus competition, can offer prizes.
- Require student to list a faculty mentor.

Other general ideas:
- Contact members if they know of distinguished Delta Omega members that are attending APHA so that the reception notice can be sent to them or they can possibly be asked to say a few words during the meeting.
- Post Delta Omega chapter creative ideas.
- Set up a Delta Omega listserv.

The national office will look into each suggestion/discussion point from the topics and report progress to the national council.