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What, me worry?

Actually, yes! I'm quite worried.

by Richard G.

After more than 30 years, GAMMA has entered a critical period. Unlike the rest of the world, however, our crisis has nothing to do with money. Our crisis has everything to do with members volunteering to step up and take part in keeping GAMMA alive.

When you paid your GAMMA membership dues you were not paying for a subscription or a service. You were not paying for a product. By joining GAMMA, you were saying that you wanted to be a member and take part in an organization whose purpose is important to you.

GAMMA's strength as an organization has always been the eagerness and willingness of members to step up and take part in doing the work of the organization. We are a volunteer-led organization. GAMMA has no paid staff, and we have no one to make sure that things run smoothly other than ourselves. In recent months it seems that fewer and fewer members have done their part towards this end.

Those of you who know me are aware that I don't like to beat around the bush, so here goes. If **things don't change and change soon, many of** our activities and events and quite possibly GAMMA itself will just not be around anymore.

Thankfully, we've got a core group of members who continue the tradition of hosting activities and taking part in keeping GAMMA going, and I want them all to know how much their effort is appreciated. But they cannot do it alone. They need YOUR help. Here are a few of the key areas where GAMMA has a critical need:

Board of Directors: As it stands now, we will have only TWO members on the Board of Directors after the Annual Banquet & Meeting. A few members have expressed interest in joining the Board, but as it stands now there are only the two of us. This simply is not enough.

The GAMMA Board can have up to nine members. **When we have a full Board it's not that hard** on any one person. As this number drops, the burden on those serving becomes larger and larger, to the point where not everything can get

done. This just isn't fair to those that are doing their best to keep things running smoothly.

Aside from helping out with events and activities, there are certain organizational tasks that must be done for GAMMA to continue to function. We need YOU to step up and do your part to make sure these things get done.

Event hosts/event managers: When I first joined GAMMA, members used to scramble for the sign-up sheets to host events such as the **Monthly Party and Game Night. Now, we just can't get** people to volunteer to host things or act as EM anymore without twisting arms and begging, and sometimes we simply cannot find anyone to **volunteer. That's what happened to this year's Hal-**loween Party – no one stepped up to host, so **there won't be a Halloween Party this year. You're busy you say? I know, we're all busy. In reality though it isn't that difficult to host an event or be** an event manager.

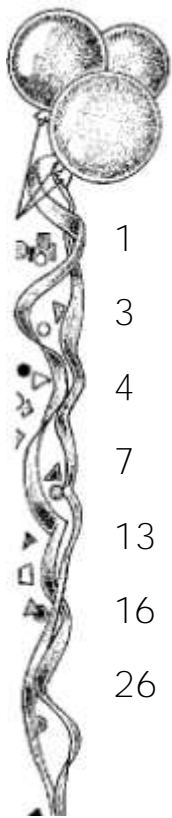
When's the last time you opened your home and hosted an event? How about volunteering to **lead a hike or bike ride? Maybe you're interested** in reading – then why not offer to host a book club for members? What about inviting other GAMMA members to join you the next time you attend a soccer or hockey game?

Dining Out: We need someone to take charge of Dining Out for next year. This can be done by one **person as in past years, or if you'd like you're** welcome to serve as coordinator and find other members to agree to arrange individual months.

Newsletter Editor: After three years of excellent work, Todd has decided to pass the newsletter duties to another member. We are looking for someone with the creativity and skills to put together our monthly newsletter, GAMMA Rays. This is a key position in the organization as our newsletter is the primary way for us to communicate with our members.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

NOVEMBER

- 1 Tom W.
- 3 Kendall K.
- 4 Chad V.
- 7 Tod T.
- 13 Eugene S.
- 16 Gene K.
- 26 BJ L.

Annual Banquet

This year's annual banquet is going to be a great evening of dining, business, and entertainment. The menu will be...

- Tossed Salad with Assorted Dressings*
- Breast of Chicken Chasseur*
- Baked Lasagna*
- Herbed Orange Roughy*
- Mostaccioli with Marinara*
- Fresh Sautéed Vegetables*
- California Broccoli Salad*
- Fresh Fruit Trays*
- Fresh Relish Trays*
- Italian Bread and Butter*
- Coffee, Tea, or Milk*
- Desert Assortment.*

Cocktails begin at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m., and the Annual Business Meeting at 8:00 p.m., with dancing to follow.

Our venue for this special event will once again be the Italian Conference Center (631 East Chicago Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202) just East of the intersection of

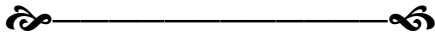
Chicago and Jackson streets in Milwaukee's Third Ward. The ICC offers ample complementary self parking just to the South of their facility (enter off of Jackson Street).

To RSVP for this event, please mail a check (payable to Milwaukee GAMMA) in the amount of \$29 per person to Rob C.

You can also RSVP and pay online (using PayPal) via the Milwaukee GAMMA Web site at: www.milwaukeegamma.com/membersonly/membersonlyevents.htm#Banquet

Note: you will need your GAMMA User Name and Password to complete this process. If you need assistance with your log-in credentials please contact Richard G.

Remember to RSVP to Rob C. no later than November 9, 2009.



Thank you...



Many thanks to Dan B. for hosting the October Monthly Party!

October Fall Hike

by Tod T.

On October 11, 2009, 9 hearty souls braved the cool autumn weather and enjoyed a brisk hike through the northern Kettle Moraine. Followed by a cheap lunch on the rustic outdoor patio at the exquisite 5 star Hamburger Haus in beautiful downtown Dundee, WI.



GAMMA Bylaw Revisions

Dear GAMMA Members:

In accordance with Section 6.2 of the GAMMA Bylaws, the Board of Directors is recommending the following proposed amendments to the GAMMA Bylaws. A vote on these amendments will be taken by the members present at the Annual Meeting to be held on Friday, November 20, 2009 at 8:00PM at the Italian Conference Center (in conjunction with the Annual Banquet).

Section 3.2 shall now read “The Board of Directors shall consist of no more than nine voting general members of GAMMA selected in accordance with these bylaws.”

(Note: Currently reads “The Board of Directors shall consist of nine voting general members of GAMMA selected in accordance with these bylaws.”)

Section 3.7.c. shall now read “to create committees as well as select committee Chairs and members annually,”

(Note: Currently reads “to approve committee appointments of the President.”)

Section 4.3.d. shall be stricken from the bylaws

(Note: Currently reads “to create, with the approval of the Board of Directors, any special committees necessary to carry out the goals of GAMMA.”)

Section 4.3.e. shall be stricken from the bylaws

(Note: Currently reads “to define, with the approval of the Board of Directors the goals and objectives of all committees, as well as the members of all committees.”)

Section 4.4.c. shall now read “to maintain a roster of GAMMA members, both current and historical”

(Note: Currently reads “to serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee.”)

Section 5.1 shall now read “The Board of Directors shall, at least annually, create committees to carry out the purposes of GAMMA. The Board of Directors shall approve, with acceptance of each nominee, the Chairs and members of all committees.”

(Note: Currently reads “The following standing committees shall be established: Membership, Publicity, Social-Cultural and Outdoor-Athletic-Recreational. Special

committees may be established in accordance with these bylaws to carry out the purposes of GAMMA.”)

Section 5.2 shall be stricken from the bylaws

(Note: Currently reads “The Membership Committee shall be responsible for recruiting new members and for keeping personnel records. At the discretion of the Board, the committee shall provide lists of names, addresses, and phone numbers of members to those within GAMMA.”)

Section 5.3 shall be stricken from the bylaws

(Note: Currently reads “The Publicity Committee shall publish a monthly publication which shall be the official voice of GAMMA. The Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to other committees in their relations with the media.”)

Section 5.4 shall be stricken from the bylaws

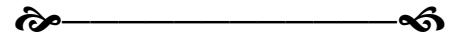
(Note: Currently reads “The Social-Cultural Committee shall be responsible for establishing and coordinating all social and cultural events. These events may occur on a monthly basis or as little as once a year. The committee will coordinate all events presented to the committee and appoint event managers to manage and run all events. Event managers when appropriate, will collect fees for activities in accordance with the guidelines of the Board, remit fees with appropriate records to the Treasurer, and submit proper receipts to the Treasurer for payment.”)

Section 5.5 shall be stricken from the bylaws

(Note: Currently reads “The Outdoor-Athletic and Recreational Committee (referred to as OAR) shall be responsible for all GAMMA events that relate to all indoor and outdoor athletic and recreational activities. The Committee shall assist in planning, coordinating and in appointing event managers to manage and run all events. Event managers shall acquaint all participants in any activity with the appropriate rules of conduct and safety as well as collect fees for activities in accordance with the guidelines of the Board, remit fees with appropriate records to the Treasurer, and submit proper receipts to the Treasurer for payment.”)

Section 5.6 shall now read “Each committee shall contain at least one member of the Board of Directors who shall serve as liaison for the committee to the Board.”

(Note: Currently reads “Each committee shall contain at least one member of the Board of Directors who shall serve as liaison for the committee to the Board; in the case of the Membership Committee, the Vice-President shall serve as Chairperson and liaison. Except for this liaison member of the Committees, all members serve at the discretion of the President.”)



THE BOARD NEEDS YOU!!

GAMMA is looking for members to serve on the Board of Directors. A term on the Board is two-years and only requires one meeting a month. The Board meetings are mostly informal and last only about two hours.

You can do your part to support Milwaukee GAMMA by volunteering to run for the Board of Directors this fall. It is because of members taking turns serving on the Board of Directors that we have been able to stay in existence for more than thirty years.



Won't you help us be around for the next thirty – contact President Kyle P. for more information or to volunteer.

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Annual Meeting/Banquet Coordinator: We need someone to volunteer to coordinate the Annual Meeting & Banquet for 2010. **There's lots of help available, but we need someone to step up and lead the way.**

With all that said, there is still one big issue to bring up. Some have suggested that **GAMMA's relevance and importance in today's world is not what it used to be.** They have suggested that the progress and strides made by the LGBT community make it possible for us to interact freely in the larger society and that having a group just for us is no longer necessary. They'll point to the progress made with domestic partnerships and gay marriage, the increase of acceptance by society, and they'll talk about how we're "winning the fight".

I disagree. GAMMA is not about gay rights, marriage equality, winning the fight, or even about the willingness of society to allow us to play in their reindeer games.

GAMMA is about having a place where you don't need to explain yourself or your relationship. It's about friendship and companionship. To me and many others, GAMMA is about having a circle of friends where the only thing that's expected of you is to be yourself and enjoy the company of others. The activities and events that make up the GAMMA calendar are as diverse as our membership. GAMMA members enjoy everything from athletics and sporting events to dining out and cultural events together. **And that's the key - we enjoy them together.**

I, for one, hope that you feel the same way and will do your part to help keep GAMMA going strong by stepping up today. Please call me or any Board member for more information on how to sign up to do your part today.

Richard G,



MONTHLY PARTY



November Events



FRONTRUNNERS MILWAUKEE RUN/WALK NOVEMBER 7, 14, 21, 28

Time: 9:00 a.m. (Saturdays)
Place: Start from Water Tower
at East end of North Ave.
FMI: John S.

Rain or shine, each Saturday we meet in
friendship for some exercise, all are wel-
come to join in. Breakfast afterwards.

CRIBBAGE NOVEMBER 5

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Shorewood,
Host: John H.
Bring: \$1.00 and your beverage
RSVP: Optional
Other: All abilities welcome!

ANNUAL BANQUET RSVP DEADLINE NOVEMBER 9

Place: Italian Conference Center
EM: Rob C.
RSVP: See page 2 for RSVP details

BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 11

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Milwaukee
Host: Rob C.
RSVP: Recommended

FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN VOLLEYBALL NOVEMBER 13

Time: 8:00 p.m.—10:15 p.m.
Place: Beulah Brinton Center
2555 S. Bay St.
Milwaukee
EM: Tony S.
RSVP: Recommended
Cost: \$1.50 for one hour / \$3.00 for
two hours

Other: GAMMA social volleyball moves to Friday
nights during open play at Brinton in Bay View. Play
for one hour or two. Teams form throughout the
night. Brinton enjoys high attendance most nights so
there should be plenty of players.

Directions: : Take I-94 south toward Chicago. Take
the exit for Becher Avenue. Turn left (east) on
Becher. Pass underneath a railroad bridge. Continue
straight, cross through the big intersection at 1st
Street and continue east onto E. Bay Street. Stay in
the left lane. Follow Bay street as it proceeds east
and then curves to the right (south). The Brinton
Center is on the right. Park in parking lot or on
street.

GAME NIGHT NOVEMBER 14

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Wauwatosa
Host: Jack L. & John S.
Bring: Your favorite board game
RSVP: Not required but would be nice
Other: Snacks and beverages will be
provided. Our home is fragrance
free because of severe allergies.
Please do not wear any
fragrances, colognes, aftershave
etc.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOVEMBER 19

Time: 5:00 p.m.
Submit event listings and articles to the
editor.

ANNUAL BANQUET NOVEMBER 20

Time: 6:00 p.m. Cocktails
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Annual Meeting
Dancing to Follow Meeting
Place: Italian Conference Center
RSVP: MANDATORY BY NOVEMBER 9
(See page 2 for RSVP details)
Cost: \$29.00 per person

Directions: Take Water St. South to Chicago St. Turn
left (East) onto Chicago St. and proceed to address.
ICC Lot (free parking) is located off Jackson St.

SHEEPSHEAD NOVEMBER 24

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Menomonee Falls
EM: Jim T.
Bring: \$1.00 and Beverage
RSVP: Recommended

Accolades

OCTOBER EVENTS

Dan B.—Monthly Party
Chris R.—Cribbage
Tod T.—Fall Hike
Peter S.—Volleyball
Brad R.—Game Night
Rob C.—Dining Out
James R.—Sheepshead
Richard G.—Blue Plate Special

THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED
OR HELPED TO MAKE THESE EVENTS A SUCCESS!

GAMMA BOARD DIRECTORY

Kyle P. (09)	President
Richard G. (10)	Vice President & Membership
Patrick O. (09)	Secretary & Historian
Brad R. (10)	Treasurer
Peter S. (09)	Volleyball & Game Night
Rob C. (09)	Social & Cultural
Chris R. (09)	Outdoor/Recreational & Events Calendar

Additional member support:

John S.	Front Runners
Ken K.	Webmaster
Michael H.	Sheepshead
Dan L.	Mail Coordinator
Art S.	Cribbage Coordinator
Todd S.	Newsletter Editor

PUBLISHING INFORMATION:

GAMMA RAYS is published by Milwaukee GAMMA, Inc., P.O. Box 1900, Milwaukee, WI, 53201-1900. Articles for publication need to be to the editor by the deadline indicated on page 7. Participation is encouraged.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please notify the club of changes in mailing and/or e-mail address. Proper addresses insure prompt delivery of the newsletter. Address-change notifications by the Postal Service cost the club money.

LIABILITY WAIVER:

Event participants should understand that some activities can be physically demanding and even dangerous. Neither GAMMA nor the organizers of an event assume liability for any injury which may result from participating in an activity. Participants assume all liability for their own conduct and safety.

The membership directory as well as the personal information listed in the newsletter is for the private use of our members ONLY and should not be distributed or shared.

GAMMA's membership year is from July 1 to June 30, but join any time during the year, and the dues are pro-rated. Annual dues are \$30.00 for individuals, \$48.00 for two persons receiving one newsletter, or \$15.00 for out-of-state members. Dues are not tax deductible. Call Richard G. at (414)530-1886 for membership dues information.

GAMMA also maintains a web site complete with event information as well as digital copies of the newsletter. Please visit us on-line at:
www.milwaukeegamma.com





P.O. Box 1900, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1900

Future Events

DATE & TIME	EVENT
Dec. 3, 2009—7:00 p.m.	Cribbage
Dec. 5, 2009—7:00 p.m.	Holiday Party
Dec. 11, 2009—7:00 p.m.	Dining Out
Dec. 15, 2009—7:30 p.m.	Sheepshead

