**The annual meeting of the Tampa Bay Alumnae Chapter of Gamma Phi Beta was held on January 14, 2017 at the home of Karen Urette.**

Members present were: Christie Kroeger, Nancy Montgomery, AJ Bott, Bette Newberger, Billie Trocke, Cathy Taulbee, Danielle McDonald, Karen Urette, Kay Falco, Kelli Burns, Linda Coles, Lisa Oliver, Lisa Weisbrod, Pat Benjamin, Rhonwyn Ratchford, CJ Hartland, and Veronica Morgan. Other sisters present: Shannon Rutherford, Chandler Walton

The chapter was treated to a surprise visit from Frances E. Haven. Member CJ Hartland presented a one woman show dramatizing Frances’ first hand version of the founding of the sorority.

President Nancy Montgomery called the meeting to order at 12:55 P.M. The August chapter minutes were accepted as printed.

**President’s report:** The chapter received the Diamond Circle of Excellence award for 2015-2016. Thanks were given to those who helped with fall events. A philanthropy report was submitted along with the monies raised by the GOTR basket raffle at Founder’s Day. A letter of thanks from the Foundation for the chapter’s $189 donation was read by the treasurer. Nancy, Bette and Cathy Taulbee will revise the chapter’s standing rules. Nancy encouraged members to refer friends, relatives, co-workers, etc. for the alumna initiate program.

Nancy explained the criteria for a new award to be presented by the chapter. The first recipient of the *Karen Gamel Urette Community Impact Award* was Karen Gamel Urette. A commemorative silver tray will be engraved each year with the name of the recipient. In addition, Karen was presented with a keepsake decorative box.

**The Membership Vice President’s report:** was given by the president. We now have 37 paid members. A roster has been prepared and was distributed to those present. Dues can be paid on the website, or a membership form can be downloaded and mailed. Criteria for the Life Loyal membership categories was discussed. Nancy also announced that Shannon has made lots of improvements to our website and invited everyone to check out our website at tampabaygammaphibeta.weebly.com

**Program Vice President’s report:** AJ Bott provided dates for upcoming events.

* January 26th (Thurs.), 6:00 P.M. January Diner’s Club at the Blind Goat Food and Drink Co. on Henderson
* Feb. 23rd (Thurs.) - Girls night out at the Melting Pot. There will be a three course meal for $31.25 and this must be paid in advance on the website by Feb. 20th.
* March (date TBA) - Coloring, Corks and Cookies at the home of Lisa Weisbrod.
* April 1st (Sat.) Chapter meeting and Cuban/Greek luncheon at the home of Mory Jones.
* May 6th (Sat.) Cinco De Mayo party at the home of Bette Newberger.
* AJ asked for suggestions from members for Diner’s Club sites.

**Treasurer’s report:** Rhonwyn Ratchford reported a balance of $5,102.26. She reviewed the budget and pointed out that we still have ~$700 earmarked for collegiate chapter support that has not been spent. A motion was made to defer a decision about how to spend the money until April. Motion died for lack of a second. It was moved and seconded that the collegiate chapters be asked about any current needs. Motion passed. Kelli Burns will contact Eta Beta and Eta Eta. A suggestion was made that the chapter consider funding an endowment that collegiate chapters could access as needed. No action was taken. It was moved and seconded that the chapter’s Foundation donation be sent in honor of our award recipients, Billie Trocke and Karen Urette. Motion passed. The possibility of another fund raiser to make up the shortfall of

the garage sale was discussed. Rhonwyn stated that it does not appear to be necessary for the chapter to have another fundraiser. No action was taken.

**Alum/Collegiate Relations and Philanthropy chair report:** Kelli Burns reported a successful “Sprinkles” mixer in December planned for collegians at home for Christmas. Kelli and Nancy met with Laura Bare, Eta Eta (USF) chapter advisor. The chapter needs a Social Advisor and a Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) chair. The chapter has applied for the vacant house in Greek Village. The date for the presentation is to be announced. Cathy Taulbee has agreed to continue on as FAC until the matter of the house is resolved but she must have a committee to assist her. Cathy informed the alum chapter that if the house becomes a reality, there will be many more responsibilities for the FAC committee. Eta Beta (Fl. Southern) collegiate chapter needs House Corp. Board volunteers. The spring event for GOTR will be held on April 29th at Poynter Park in downtown St. Petersburg.

**Communications Team** - no report

**Panhellenic Rep report:** Lisa Weisbrod invited the chapter to the next Tampa Alumnae Panhellenic Association (TAPA) meeting/fundraiser at the California Pizza Kitchen. The meeting is January 17th at 6:30 P.M. The Tri-city Luncheon will be held February 18th at the Staybridge Suites in St. Petersburg. TAPA’s big Scholarship/Wine Tasting and Silent Auction fundraiser will be held on March 23rd. Lisa reminded the chapter that other sorority events should not conflict with this date. Billie has offered a basket with some items for the chapter’s contribution to the silent auction. The Clearwater Alumnae Panhellenic Association will have an “*Evita*” fund raiser on March 2nd. The Clearwater group is offering a scholarship for girls in Pinellas or Pasco counties. The Eta Eta collegiate chapter has been given the application.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Nancy proposed that young alums gather at/or around dates of the crescent moon (first quarter moon) - Fri. Feb 3rd, Sun. March 5th, Mon. April 3rd, Tues. May 2nd. The pros and cons of the chapter’s “secret” designation Facebook page were discussed. It was announced that the next chapter meeting will be Sat. April 1st at Mory Jones. Nancy suggested a ”Cuban/Greek” theme for the luncheon to honor Tampa Bay history.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Trocke

Acting Secretary