

The Kentucky Lamplighter

December 2024

Volume 71, Issue 2



Kentucky State President, Kelli Thornberry



Hello, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Life is short and time is precious as we spend time with our family over these holidays and we make memories to last a life time. Our state membership continues to decline and the time that we spend with each other is twice a year. It saddens me that more of our membership does not come to fall board and State Convention. That is our time to celebrate and make memories to last a lifetime. So, think about attending and bring along your chapter members or a friend.

Fall Board was a great success!! **THANK YOU** to the Alpha Theta sisters for a fun gathering!! **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended and for the Teacup Auction donations. After lunch we had a fantastic speaker, who happened to be Marge Green's granddaughter, Ashley Crocker. Not only is Ashley a flight nurse, she is also

an Air Evac helicopter pilot. Ashley spoke to us about women's health.

I am saddened about the news of Marge Green passing away on December 14th. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

My chapter, Kappa Chapter collected items for Assisted Living Facility and made 22 Christmas bags. They were delivered to the facility on Monday Dec 9th. We wanted them to have them for their Christmas party. This is just one of the things we try to do for our communities.



I ask that every chapter let me know what you are doing for your community. I'm sure the outpouring of love and support we show is overwhelming.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Hope you have a joyful holiday. Filled with lots of memories and laughter. Love Kelli

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Erin Baker, Vice President

I have been doing a lot of reflecting recently in the last few days. I just want to take the time to let you all know how much you and ESA mean to me. I am grateful for you in my life, and I miss you all dearly. I have not received any bids for state convention (that I'm aware of). Please e-mail me and/

or call me if your chapter is interested in hosting state convention or fall board in 2025. I know multiple members have health problems and hosting can be challenging. I am willing to help out any way that I can. Getting together is the perfect time to share knowledge, continue to

build and strengthen relationships, and just have a good time.

My e-mail is Eebaker5@gmail.com or you can call me 812-327-2237 to put in a bid or just catch up.

Continue to Be Kind and I hope to see you soon.

Dee Dee Gnadinger, Corresponding Secretary

Hello all! I am Kelli's Corresponding Secretary. Kelli and I met through ESA and have become very close friends sharing life's ups and downs as the years go by. I have been in ESA for almost 18 years. My husband Roger and I have been married

for 37 years. We are very proud of our daughter Madison and our daughter-in-law Raychel.

I have had a daycare in my home for many years. I now only watch 2 children and **THEY WEAR ME OUT!!** In my spare time, I

hang out with my Kappa Psi sisters as much as possible!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be thankful for **ALL** your friends and family. Looking forward to being with all of you in 2025. **BE KIND.**

Laurie Mulrooney, EasterSeals Chair

Greetings!

Christmas is just around the corner !!

I'd like to thank chapters that contributed to Easter Seals. Your donations help so much in providing services through Easter seals in our state as well as nationwide.

Delta Tau and Kappa Psi donated \$100 dollars to Easter Seals

If I missed anyone please let me know your chapter and amount donated

fundraiser activities that your chapter held or any donations please send to me and include your chapter name, monies raised, time donated and mileage, if applicable

If you have any fundraiser ideas, at:

Esalaurie@yahoo.com

Or mail a check to

240 Louis Lane
Mt Washington, Ky. 40047
VENMO (@Laurie-Mulroony)
or
PAYPAL. (@laurieMulroony)

May all of your wishes and many blessings come your way this holiday season and in 2025!

Velva Yeomans, ESA Foundation Counselor

Deadline for paying ESA Foundation dues of \$40 is December 31. This enables you to vote on directors and any other items requiring a vote. Dues can be paid on-line. Kentucky sponsors two scholarships: The Kentucky State Council Endowment Scholarship established during the term of Pat Kisling's presidency,

and the Thelma Waggoner Endowment Scholarship imitated by Vicky to honor her mom. In order to keep them viable, contributions need to be made on a continuous basis. Scholarships are paid from the interest earned unless approval is given to take an amount from the principle in order to give the desired scholar-

ship. When preparing your chapter budget, remember these two scholarships.

Enrollment for the scholarships begins October 1 and closes February 1. Have you checked with local high school counselors to alert them that these scholarships are available? Let's see just how many can be submitted from Kentucky.

Diana Cohen, State Awards Chair

Greetings to everyone!! I am a **CRAZY BUSY** woman!! Was Award Chair for the 2024 SERC Convention, Current IC Treasurer and the IC Association of the Arts Chair for the 2025 IC Convention, Volunteer 2 days a week at a charity thrift store and Sing/Compete in 2 barbershop choruses. (My husband says I am overscheduled...)

I have a variety of information to share with you.

2024 SERC Awards - It's hard to compete with the bigger ESA States, but Kentucky received 3rd place in the Barbara Riley Circle of Life Award, for the most money per member raised for St. Jude: \$21,582 per member. Kappa Psi Louisville received 2nd place in the Ginnie Haralson Mileage Award with 5 members in attendance for 2,605 miles. THANK YOU to the Chapters for submitting your information!!

Ky State Awards - The updated State Awards Form will be available at the first of year. I will send it out via email and it will be available on the Kentucky State Website. The award year is March 1, 2024 - Feb 28, 2025. The deadline for submission of the form is March 15, 2025. This information is also used for the SERC Awards, so it important for every Chapter to submit the form regardless of the amount.

IC Convention Association of the Arts - If you are attending IC Convention, consider submitting an item to the Association of the Arts. The number of items submitted is fewer every year and I believe there are several craft/art/photo talented people in Kentucky who could be submitting an item.

I look forward to seeing my Kentucky sisters at events in 2025!!

St. Jude Information

Kentucky had four Dream Homes this year. They were in Bowling Green, Lexington, Louisville and Paducah. Between all 4 homes, over 33,000 tickets were sold.

The St. Jude Memphis Marathon was held Saturday, December 7, 2024. Several ESA sisters and brothers from various states participated.

Facts at a Glance

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Our mission is clear: Finding cures. Saving children.®

- ◆ Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food—because all a family should

worry about is helping their child live.

- ◆ Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped increase the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20% to more than 80% since we opened more than 50 years ago. We won’t stop until no child dies from cancer.

What a great present to give someone, helping a child in need.



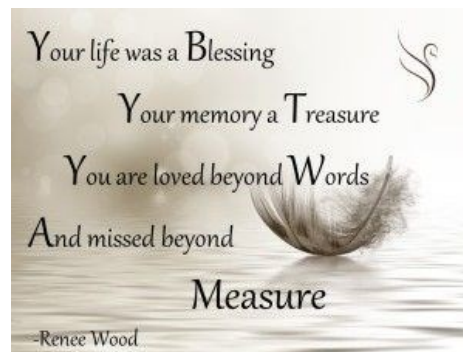
Marge Green, Alpha Theta Chapter

Our beloved friend and ESA sister, Marge Green, left this world suddenly on December 14, 2024 at age 85. Marge was a member of Alpha Theta Chapter.

Marge knew her husband Don since their teenage years, and they married in 1959 for 65 wonderful years. Together, they had 2 children: Scott and Ginger, 3 grandchildren: Ashley, Rebekah and Matthew and 6 great grandchildren: Emma, Macy, Kaydence, Abby, Ezra and Leona. Her life was full of laughter, joy and an overabundance of hugs and kisses.

A funeral service was held Saturday December 21, 2024, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 553 Ashmoor Ave. Bowling Green, KY 42101.

We will all miss Marge



Diana Cohen, 2025 IC Convention Treasurer



IC Convention 2025 Registration Now Available!!

"A Southern Serenade"
July 13 - July 20s

2025 IC Convention Registration is now available on the ESA IC Webpage. The paper registration form can be downloaded either to print or as a fillable document.

The IC Convention Committee is excited to use **Zeffy** for **online** Convention registration. Zeffy is a free fundraising tool offered to non-profit/not-for-profit organizations. Several ESA Chapters/Members are already using Zeffy for event registrations and fundraising. I am a member of a barbershop chorus that uses Zeffy to automatically collect monthly dues and solicit donations.

Member registration and Non-Member/Guest registration are **SEPARATE** links on the website. After submitting your registration, you will receive an email receipt. The IC Convention Registration Chairs will receive an email with your detailed information.

Payments are accepted via Apple Pay, Google Pay, credit card, or **bank transfer**. If you are on a device with Apple Pay or Google Pay, Zeffy will default to that payment method. This can be changed at checkout. No credit card fees are added, but the form will show an optional donation amount to help offset Zeffy's expenses. This can be changed to ANY amount.

If you need to register with a credit card, but cannot use online access, there are instructions on the registration form for whom to contact. There will be a credit card fee.

A link to the hotel website is available to book your hotel rooms.

Tour registrations and more information about the convention will be added to the IC Convention website and Facebook over the next few months.

Looking forward to seeing you in Cary, NC!!

Chapter News

Alpha Epsilon - Paducah

To participate in a Hope for Heros event, Velva attended the Veteran's Day events held at Dolly McNutt Plaza in downtown Paducah. She assisted with the serving of donuts and coffee to the great crowd in attendance. Parks & Recreation Department planned a patriotic program which was followed by the Veteran's Day Parade,

Vicky Jones, Sue Williams, Laurie Mulrooney, and Velva traveled together to North Little Rock, Arkansas to attend SERC. We traveled the day before to tour P. Allen Smith's estate in the mountains of Arkansas.



Part of the tour package was lunch underneath a huge white tent followed by P. Allen Smith entertaining the group by talking about life on the farm and his participation in TV shows.

Alpha Theta - Bowling Green

Here I am on December 5, 2024 sitting down to write an article for the Kentucky Lamplighter and it dawns on me that we only have 20 days until Christmas. Are you like me, wondering where 2024

has gone?

I hope each of you had a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. We all have so much to be thankful for not only at Thanksgiving time but throughout the year.

Alpha Theta has been busy. We had so much fun hosting Fall Board in October. You that have hosted before know it takes lots of planning and preparation for the day but it was certainly worth it all because we got to fellowship with our Kentucky Sisters across the state. There were 19 in attendance. Of course, we wished for more but were thankful for those that came.

Now on to Christmas- - Alpha Theta will be gathering on Friday, December 6, 2024 to celebrate Christmas with a meal at the Italia Cafe here in Bowling Green. On December 10, 2024 we will have our monthly business meeting. We always meet at the Eloise Houchens Center for Women and at Christmas time there are several organizations that decorate a tree for Christmas and each tree will have a theme so the house looks so festive with all the trees. Really gets you in the Christmas spirit. Dorothy Hunter and her daughter, Melody decorated Alpha Theta's tree this year. Our theme was "Christmas In America. Each member will be bringing warm articles to put under the Salvation Army Christmas Tree. Also, we will be exchanging Christmas gifts with our

sisters.

We have several members in our chapter that sure could use your prayers.

Marge Green has fallen. Luckily, she had no broken bones but is having surgery on her leg today to drain some blood that has accumulated.

Dorothy Hunter has had many test and she has several health problems.

Martha Morgan had two strokes back many weeks ago but was very blessed that she recovered very well from them after some time.

Romanza Johnson has had problems walking and after a stay in a rehab facility taking lots of therapy she is home and able to be out on a walker.

Quenitta Shirley is having some test and is probably going in for surgery but she is not sure when.

There may be others but these are our members that I know need you to remember them.

It is wonderful to be a part of an organization that cares about one another.

I will be leaving for Orange Beach again this winter and Harriet Breeze, Alpha Theta's Vice President, will be filling in for me and I am sure they will be making plans for the Heart Luncheon and Fashion Show in March of 25. There will be lots of work

Chapter News (continued)

and preparations to be done so it will be another successful year. We will get the word out when the date is set and it would be wonderful if some of you could come. It is always a fun time and it helps to support the American Heart Association.

Beta Nu—Cadiz

First and foremost, please keep Nancy Moore in your prayers. Nancy lost her husband Jimmy of 46 years, and then Nancy had surgery on December 7th to remove an infection in her knee.

We are excited that Vicky Jones has joined Beta Nu.

We had a successful Golf Tournament. It was first scheduled for October, but due to rain was postponed until October 19th. The money raised will go towards our Angel Tree.

At our November meeting, members worked on getting information on the Angel Tree cards. Mindy Hargrove distributed the trees to local banks and the Trigg County Clerk's Office. During the week of December 16th, we will gather the gifts, wrap presents, shop for extra goodies, and then on December 21st will distribute all the gifts to the needy families.

We want to wish all of you a happy and healthy new year!

Delta Tau - Louisville

Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's! These holidays always put everyone in a joyful mood and Delta Tau is no exception! We finished working on the St. Jude

Dream Home in late September and began getting our "pumpkin crafts" ready for our first craft fair in October.



We raised \$821 at this fair and have begun to get things ready for our second fair in November. We have one more craft fair in December to finish out the year!

We are planning our December luncheon (restaurant undecided at this time) and have decided in lieu of buying gifts for each other, we are all buying and donating items to Little Way Pregnancy Center. They help provide options, tests, ultrasounds, and baby items with the hope of keeping the baby. We will take these items to the center in January.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and joyful holiday season!



Kappa Psi - Louisville

Hello. We have been trying to stay warm here. Our chapter has been busy these past several months.

Our Fall board was hosted by Alpha Theta on October 2nd.

SERC was held in Little Rock, Arkansas October 25-27. There were 7 of us from Kentucky that attended SERC.

Many went to the ESSE PURSE MUSEUM TOUR. We heard that it was a really interesting place seeing purses that were popular from each decade.

Four of us went to P. Allen Smith's MOSS MOUNTAIN TOUR & LUNCHEON. We were given a guided walking tour of the magnificent gardens and is home. A lunch meal was included & it was made from things grown in his gardens and goat cheese from his goats! It was really something!

We are sad to see our sister Diane Smith, leave us. She and her family arrived in the Rochester, New York area because her husband's employer transferred him. But we couldn't let her leave without a celebration! Many members treated her to a "going away" luncheon at THE GLITZ

In Versailles, Ky. It's a family-owned business with, not only the restaurant, but also a store & gallery in a 3-story building called Irish Acres. Inside the gallery

Chapter News (continued)

were thousands of beautiful items, mostly antiques!! The old building was formerly the elementary school called Nonesuch. It was fun shopping and browsing and Diane enjoyed did appreciate it.

I'd like to shout out a special thanks to Diane for all of her hard work and leadership coordinating the CROPS over the years. They were an investment and fun weekends for those that are crafters.

Kappa Psi donated items and gave a Thanksgiving basket to a family experiencing hardship

We also bought clothing and toys & wrapped them for 2 children of a family struggling for a brighter Christmas.

The chapter members bought needed items and goodies & wrapped them for residents at a memory care unit at a Louisville center.



We will be celebrating our Christmas Party and Secret Sister reveal this coming Saturday - Dec 21st!

Gamma Tau - Henderson

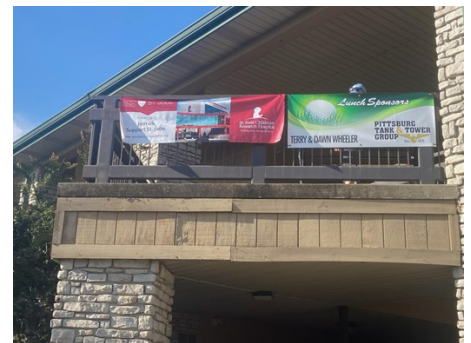
Whew!! Gamma Tau has had a busy summer and Fall! We took on a big challenge this summer to increase our donation to St. Jude! We hosted our first annual Golf Tournament and it was a Success!! We had 10 teams that participated and 13 hole sponsors. Our members made "swag" bags for all the golf players and included home-made baked goods!!! We had so many positive comments and compliments and we plan for a bigger and better tournament in the Summer of 2025! And the best part of all, we raised \$2,822.88 that was donated to St. Jude!!

We also continue to have some wonderful speakers at our monthly meetings. We had Jessica Beaven from Homeplace of Henderson that gave us information on the new research and development in Dementia Care. And we had our local extension office give a presentation on Fall Care of landscape/yards/

gardens around the home. It was very informative and many questions were answered!

Some of our members participated in a Wreath Making class at our local extension office. This was a new experience for so many of us - but we all enjoyed the experience and ended up with beautiful wreaths for our homes!!

As we enter the Holiday Season and reflect on the past year, we are so Thankful for our new members and those that continue to be active members of Gamma Tau! We had a great year and look forward to an even better one in 2025!! From all the sisters of Gamma Tau, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



Kindness is like snow - it beautifies everything it covers.

- Khalil Gibran



SERC Conference

Kentucky had 7 members represented at SERC Conference and we had a fantastic time! Velva, Vicky, Sue & Laurie went early so they could visit P. Allen Smith's home at Moss Mountain in Arkansas. They even got to see and hear P. Allen speak as we ate lunch. Kelli, Dee Dee & Diana went early as well so they could meet up with our adopted Kentucky sister, Kathlene. They toured the Esse Purse

Museum. Laura Gnewuch from North Carolina presided as SERC President and did a fantastic job. Our very own Diana Cohen was the SERC Awards Chair and did an awesome job! Kentucky won a few awards, which we are very proud of. At the Installation Banquet, Dawn Middleton from Mississippi was installed as the 2024-2025 SERC President and Kentucky's Kelli

Thornberry was installed as 2nd Vice President!! Dawn's theme is "ESA Music in our Heart" During the St. Jude presentation, it was revealed that Kentucky raised \$1,553,870.00 for St. Jude's. Way to go Kentucky!! The total raised for all the SERC states was (drum roll please . . .) \$12,227,652.00 We all had a great time, and feel so blessed that we got to spend this time together.





The Kentucky Lamplighter
664 Grigsby Lane
Cadiz, KY 42211



The Kentucky Lamplighter

