

The Kentucky Lamplighter

January 2026

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Kentucky State President, Kelli Thornberry

Hello and Happy Holidays! I hope you all enjoyed time with family and friends. The weather is still having fun with all of us and can't decide if we are gonna be hot or cold. Normal for Kentucky.

You all missed out on a wonderful time at SERC. We spent time at Myrtle Beach and South Carolina put on a wonderful convention. Lauren Ryan NC is our new President her theme is Beyond the Rainbow. She would like for us to work on ways to be more inclusive and think outside the box for starting new chapters and bringing in new members.

Susan Garner is our new Treasurer please send her any donations.

Also please do not forget to send your IC chapter Dues, please do this as soon as possible. They need to go to Margaret Kramer KS. This is how we get to vote at IC convention. We have had chapters not pay IC dues and we have lost votes. So please add this to your budget and let your Treasurer know we pay both IC and SERC. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

We have some fun things coming up. Spring Convention is May 1-3 in Bowling Green. Erin will be installed as the new state President. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending and supporting Erin.

In February leadership will be all on line.



It is a one day event and is \$50 to attend. They have hired someone to lead this event so it should be very interesting. Please think about attending this event.

In October I will be installed as SERC President. I would love for you all to attend and be apart of my honor guard. The convention will be in Kissimmee Fl. The room rates are fantastic. We are going to have fun as always.

Kentucky is also hosting SERC in October 2028 in Lexington. Vicky and I will have more info on that at the state convention. The hotel and room rates are great.

I told you we have a lot of fun events coming up.

Please continue to take care of yourself so you can take care of your family.

Stay Anchored in ESA

Vice President Erin Baker

I hope everyone is having a wonderful winter holiday season with their loved ones. Alpha Theta met last week for our Christmas dinner and had a great time with great food. Cafe Italia in Bowling Green is just heavenly. At our meeting earlier this month, Alpha Theta voted to host state convention 2026 and it was recently approved by the executive board (due to no other bids being

received). It will be a retreat style and different than anything in the past. It will be the weekend of May 1 and 2, Derby weekend at a lake house on Barren River Lake. Look for more information to come as Alpha Theta works on discussing and finalizing price, registration and the agenda. I am also still working on my executive board and appointed positions. I cannot do this all on

my own. I know committing to serve can be challenging but please meet me halfway so I don't have to call and beg. My cell is 812-327-2237 and texts are much appreciated. Until we see each other at state convention, ESA love and all of mine, Erin.

Corresponding Secretary, Dee Dee Gnadinger

I have had a wonderful year with my ESA sisters. We made many memories in 2025, but my favorite memory was the trip to SERC in Myrtle Beach.

We stayed at the Landmark Resort. Eight of us shared a penthouse suite. The convention was wonderful. A big thank you to our ESA sisters in South Carolina!

Of course, we walked on the beach to collect shells and played in the resort pool and hot tub. We also went to Brookgreen Gardens, Coastal Grand Mall, Broadway at the Beach, and several restaurants. I especially liked eating ice cream out of mason jars at The Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar & Ice Cream Shop! We did plenty of eating and shopping!

I wish more of our Kentucky sisters would join us. Next year it's in sunny Florida.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and 2026 is the best year for you and your loved ones.

Much Love,

Past President & Disaster Fund Chair, Diana Cohen

I hope everyone is doing well this holiday season. The temperature at my house during the winter blast in early December fell to -1. BRRRR!! We were only able to put out our penguin yard Christmas decoration this year.

SERC was a blast in South Carolina. Eight of us stayed in the penthouse at the resort. We went sightseeing,

shopping, and walked along the beach. The convention was wonderful. Kudos to our South Carolina sisters!!

Remember to make your Chapter donations to the Disaster Fund. It seems like the weather is changing for the worst in recent years and we are all getting older, so who knows what the future holds.

I will be sending out information regarding State Awards in the near future. Remember the information you provide is compiled and reported to IC as well, so it's important for it to be complete.

Dress for the winter weather before you venture outside!!!

SERC Treasurer, Susan Gardner

I hope you are all doing well. Below is the 2025-2026 SERC Chapter Donations form. Fill out the form and mail to me. SERC appreciates your chapters' donation.

My address is: Susan Gardner

2015 Daniel Road

Villa Rica, GA 30180.



SERC Chapter Donation Form 2025-2026

Date Mailed: _____

Chapter Name: _____

Chapter President Name: _____

Chapter President's Email Address: _____

Treasurer's Name: _____

Treasurer's Address: _____

Treasurer's Email Address: _____

Minimum Donation \$15.00

Donation Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to SERC and please mail donations to:

Susan Garner
2015 Daniel Road
Villa Rica, GA 30180
(770) 856-7798
stg2015@bellsouth.net



For Completion by the SERC Treasurer

Date Received: _____ Check # _____

Date Deposited: _____ Date sent confirmation: _____

Chapter News

Beta Nu—Cadiz

Beta Nu had a successful golf tournament, and all proceeds went to help fund our annual Angel Tree.

Nancy Moore hosted Beta Nu's Christmas Party at her home. The members enjoyed a delicious brunch and had fun with a "dirty Santa" ornament exchange.



At our November meeting, members worked on getting information on the Angel Tree cards. Angel Trees were set up in local banks and the courthouse for the community in December. After collecting all the bought presents for the Angel Tree participants, members go through and determine if more items need to be purchased. Members went shopping for all the Angels who needed additional presents, which is always a highlight for us. On Saturday, December 20th, families came to pick up the Christmas gifts for their children. Members of Beta Nu are proud to be bring such joy to these children.



Gamma Tau—Henderson

We are excited to welcome our new officers for the year: Pam Ballou, President; Laura McGrail, Vice President; Amanda Rice, Treasurer; Keevie Vicent, Secretary; Sandy Pritchett, Past President/Parliamentarian; and Glenda Sutton, Chaplain.

Our year began with a beautiful backyard, candlelit ceremony to induct officers and present earned pins. We were also delighted to introduce several new members, each honored with their own special pinning ceremony.

Following the ceremony, members participated in a brainstorming session reflecting on last year's accomplishments. We were amazed by the number of individuals and organizations Gamma Tau was able to help. From there, we set new goals for the year—and we are already making great progress.

One achievement we are especially proud of is donating \$5,000 to St. Jude. Much of this came from our successful golf scramble, thanks to the hard work of past president Sandy Pritchett. Additional fundraising efforts included pecan sales, collecting loose change and G dollars, and a very successful Christmas bazaar led by Janet Burke.

Gamma Tau members also made time for fun and fellowship! We enjoyed a movie night, a trip to Owensboro's Preservation Station, and a wonderful tour of our local library, which inspired an upcoming workshop in January. Our craft nights have been such a hit that we look forward to many more.



Chapter News (continued)

Gamma Tau—Henderson (continued)

Our theme for the year is “Love Grows Where ESA Goes.” We are committed to living out this theme by sharing love, service, and support throughout our community.



Kappa Psi—Louisville

Happy Holidays ESA members!

Before I tell of Kappa Psi’s adventures, I would like to recognize our new Vice President, Tiffany Quebe, whom I forgot to mention in the previous newsletter. I would also like to thank her for doing a great job standing in for me during the months of August and September!

A quick little info regarding our monthly meetings: Every month we recognize any sister(s) that will be having or had a birthday, and plan our dessert treat to their liking, such as a certain flavor of cake, or pies, or cookies, or food. Our birthday sisters this quarter are Diana Cohen, Kelli Thornberry, Kim Bagby, and Laurie Mulroony. Then there is the sharing of our Secret Sister gifts, which is fun and enjoyable to see what each sister is receiving. We also have an educational time, where we each chose a month and decide on the presentation. Some of our presentations can be fun and relaxing, along with teaching a technique, or a lesson in arm exercises to tighten our batwings....lol.

Now, back to the adventures of the Kappa Psi sisters. During the month of September, several of our ladies went to the Fall Convention in Lebanon Junction, Kentucky. We were in charge of providing food arrangements and decorations.

Our next adventure as a group, in October, was to SERC in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Six of our group went. Diana Cohen, Kelli Thornberry, Sue Williams, DeeDee Gnadinger, Laurie Mulroony, and myself, Kitty Beall. (My first SERC, I was excit-

ed). We were joined in our group by Vicky Jones and Kathleen ‘Kat’ Grisson. Such a fun group to be with! Our group all arrived at the hotel together on Tuesday Oct 22. Thank you to Vicky Jones for the hotel arrangements, and the nine seater SUV. And a Thank you To Our driver Kelli Thornberry! Both of you were Awesome! Our group had reservations to stay from Tues Oct 22nd to Thursday Oct 30th, with plans for some site seeing.

Would like to give a brief account of a few things we did. Wed Oct 22nd, most of the group rode over to the outdoor mall called Broadway on the Beach! Many shops and beautiful sites to see as we walked the Village. We had lunch at Margaritaville. Thurs, Oct 23, we went to Brookgreen Gardens, where we took a self-tour of the indoor art museum, and walked the outdoor Botanical gardens which were beautifully landscaped, and Sculptures placed throughout. Diana and I even found sculptures that we resembled. Also, there was a wildlife Preserve to enjoy after the walk through the gardens. Fri Oct 24th, Sat 25th time to walk the beach, and attend the Convention. I found the Convention interesting and fun, especially during the action time. Sunday Oct 26th, the group went to Huntington Beach Park and while we were there we visited the Huntington Castle ‘Atalya’. It was a self-walk tour, and very interesting. The last few days the weather was a bit windy and wet. We went to several different places to eat, along with a special visit to Crazy Masons Ice Cream parlor to celebrate Diana’s Birthday. What a treat that was!

Lastly, we just had our Christmas party at Karen Williams’s house! Food, Fun, laughter and sharing of gifts!



Would like to Thank Karen for taking the time to shop for gifts for our Christmas family!

May each and every one have a happy and safe Holiday!

SERC Conference Highlights

South Carolina hosted SERC 2025 in Myrtle Beach. The Kentucky delegation consisting of Kelli Thornberry, Diana Cohen, Sue Williams, Laurie Mulroony, Vicky Jones, Dee Dee Gnadinger, & Kitty Beall represented Kentucky at SERC. Illinois member (and adopted Kentucky member) Kathleen Grissom met up with us for some Myrtle Beach fun! We were fortunate to get a 3 bedroom penthouse. Each bedroom had a balcony overlooking the ocean, needless to say, we were all in heaven. As Kentucky delegation is known for, we always take time to tour the area, and what a blast we had!

Brookgreen Gardens, what a hidden gem! Brookgreen is a 9,100 acre sculpture garden and wildlife preserve in Murrells Inlet.



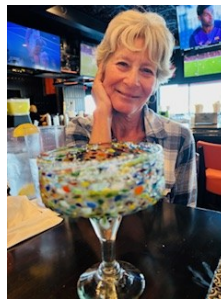
We were amazed at the resemblance of the sculpture and Kitty.



Diana Cohen emulates the sculpture "Diana"



After all the fun, and walking at Brookgreen Gardens, it's Margarita time!



The group visits Atalaya Castle. This Moorish-style castle, with its picturesque courtyards and unique architecture was constructed between 1931 and 1933 by philanthropist Archer Huntington and his wife, sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington



Celebrating Diana Cohen's birthday at the Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar



Relaxing in the lazy river



It's not an ESA trip without shopping & taking fun pics



SERC Conference Highlights (continued)



A little shenanigans going on with the SERC Executive Board at the Friday Night Mixer



Kitty Beale of Kappa Psi all dressed up for the Saturday Night Banquet
Kitty Beale of Kappa Psi all dressed up for the Saturday Night Banquet and installation of officers.



For many of us, one of the highlights of ESA meetings is the flag ceremony. State President, Kelli Thornberry poses with the Kentucky state flag



St. Jude totals. Way to go Kentucky



SERC Officers, L to R:
Eve Green Dudley, Corresponding Secretary; Sandra Edwards, Parliamentarian; Jennifer Gailey, 2nd Vice President; Lauren Ryan, President; Kelli Thornberry, 1st Vice President; Susan Garner, Treasurer; Sandy Fletcher, Recording Secretary, Dawn Middleton, Jr. Past President

White Chili (submitted by Vicky Jones)

When it's cold outside, I love soups & chili. This delicious white chili recipe was shared with me by my cousin Wendy. Hope you enjoy it as much as I do!

Ingredients

- ◆ 4 cooked chicken breast shredded
- ◆ 4 cups chicken broth
- ◆ 2 tablespoons of butter
- ◆ 1 cup bell pepper chopped
- ◆ 1 cup celery chopped
- ◆ 1 cup onion chopped
- ◆ 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- ◆ 1 can mild Rotel
- ◆ 8 oz sour cream
- ◆ 1 package McCormick's White Chili chicken seasoning
- ◆ 2 cans Great Northern Beans
- ◆ 2 cans White Shoepeg corn



Directions

1. Sauté bell pepper, celery, & onion in butter in a large stew pot
2. Mix in all other ingredients
3. Simmer for 30-45 minutes
4. Stir often

Optional

Garnish with parsley and/or avocado

Serve with tortilla chips

Beefy Tortellini

Beefy Tortellini Bake is the ultimate comfort food, combining rich flavors and gooey cheese for a heartwarming dish that's perfect for family dinners or gatherings. This one-pan wonder features tender tortellini enveloped in a savory beef and marinara sauce, topped with melted mozzarella and baked to perfection. With its inviting aroma and satisfying taste, this recipe will quickly become a favorite, leaving everyone asking for seconds.

Ingredients

- ◆ 1 lb ground beef
- ◆ 12 oz cheese-filled tortellini (fresh or frozen)
- ◆ 2 cups marinara sauce (store bought is fine. I like Ragu Kettle cooked Marinara)
- ◆ 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- ◆ 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ◆ 1 tbsp olive oil
- ◆ 1 tbsp Italian seasoning
- ◆ 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ◆ 1 medium onion, chopped

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°
2. Spray a baking dish with nonstick spray
3. In a skillet, add olive oil and sauté onions until translucent.
4. Add garlic and ground beef with onions; cook until browned
5. Stir in marinara and Italian seasoning & let simmer for 5 minutes
6. Cook tortellini according to package directions until al dente & drain
7. Combine cooked tortellini with meat mixture until well-coated
8. Transfer to the baking dish, top with mozzarella cheese & parmesan cheese
9. Bake for 25-30 minutes until bubbly & golden





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Cadiz, KY 42211



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