# Epsilon Sigma Alpha Southeast Regional Council



Issue 5 Theda Hall SERC President

### News from the President

Hello, everyone! Hope you have enjoyed this summer even with the hot days. It's coming to an end and hopefully you are thinking about our **SERC Conference in Pooler, GA. Romanda and Susie** have been working very hard to ensure that you have a great time. **(Check Romanda's article in this newsletter.)** The tour sounds great. I am coming in on Thursday morning so that I can be on this bus!

This year has flown by. It seems like the older you get, the faster time flies. I have certainly enjoyed it, especially visiting two state conventions (**Georgia and Louisiana**) and meeting new friends and renewing old relationships.

The **IC Convention** was a blast. From the ballgame on Sunday to the Welcome Party on Wednesday to the Lip Sync Contest on Thursday to the St. Jude Challenge and the Easterseals BUNCO event to the installation on Saturday night, it was all great! Our SERC Board, **(Tammy, Meghan, Kelli, Mary, Lauren and myself)** had fun doing the YMCA lip sync – we did not win; however, got a lot of attention.

And, the St Jude Challenge "Christmas in July" was such a swell idea. One of our tasks was to find 12 elves that were posted around the room. My, was that a hoot! They were hidden in places you would never guess. And, some of the costumes were Christmasy and cute. Of course, having a bar in the room added to the fun! Easterseals had a BUNCO night and it was a big success.

The only thing Awards luncheon did not surprise us. Some of the awards were as follows:

- State Membership Director Honor Award/Greatest Number of New Members was Arkansas as one of the top 4 contenders. Congrats: Arkansas
- State Membership Director Honor Award/Greatest # of New Member
  - o 2nd Place South Carolina
  - o 3rd Place North Carolina
- B J Clark Outstanding State President
  - o Honorable Mention: Jennifer Gailey, Tennessee and Jan Faulkner, NC
- ESA for St. Jude-State Donating the Most Dollars per Member
  - Lousiana 1 st Place with \$ 28,643 per member
- ESA for St Jude Largest Individual Event Award (excluding Dream Homes & Dream; Radiothons)
  - o 2nd place was Theta Epsilon, Arkansas
- The Gold Seal Merit AwardS
  - Alpha Gamma, Florida, Trudie Myers
  - Sigma Phi, Florida, Pinky Barbour, Peggy Sprinkle
  - o Rho Chi, Florida, Mary Sosa
- State News Bulletin, 4 Issues or Less
  - o 3rd Place Florida
- State News Bulletin with 5 Issues or more
  - 1st Place Georgia
- Easterseals Award State Hours
  - o 1st Place Florida with 163 hours

Then, the big night came, and we found out the totals of the St. Jude fundraisers this year. Can you believe we raised almost **20 Million Dollars**. Folks that is incredible. I won't list the top ten (your State President will) however, SERC did quite well. **CONGRATULATION TO EVERYONE!** 

Some deadlines approaching are:

- Sept 15, 2023 Tax Facts (Chapter Treasurer's)
- Sept 1, 2023 SERC Awards Forms Due to Anita Hilburn, Awards Chair Anita.hilburn@gmail.com
- Oct 1, 2023 Last issue of the Butterfly Express to Sarah Fletcher sfletcher@arvest.com
- Oct 1, 2023 Tour Deadline
- Oct 2, 2023 Deadline for Reservations @ Embassy Suites by Hilton Savannah Airport
- Oct 1, 2023 Deadline for regular registration at SERC ConferencOct
- Oct 27-28, 2023 SERC Conference

#### GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN ASAP AS THE ROOMS ARE FILLING UP!

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"Promise me you'll always remember that you're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think" -Christopher Robin

"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals." -Goethe

"Keep your dreams alive. Understand to achieve anything that requires faith, and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination, and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe." -Gail Devers

Theda Hall
SERC President
"SEE It, BELIEVE IT, ACHIEVE IT"





### News from the 1st Vice President

This year has been the toughest road I've ever been on. My husband of almost 29 years, battled cancer for 9 months. He passed away on August 1st. My heart is still broken. My son and I have been comforting each other. We are walking through the next journey.

I've missed a lot of ESA activities this year due to my husband's cancer battle; however, I now need to look forward as I will become the next SERC President in October 2023. We will travel to Savannah, Georgia for the SERC Conference where the Georgia ladies will treat us with southern hospitality.

I ask if you haven't considered being a part of my appointed board, will you consider it? My theme is "Reach with your Heart". I've attached the willing to serve form or you can email me directly for questions.

ESA is family...we reach out and help others in need. This year, I've been a recipient of that love and support.

My love to you all, Laura

## News from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

#### Hello SERC friends!

I hope you had a great summer and are staying cool in this sweltering heat. School has started back for the kiddos in our area, fall baseball practice is in high gear, high school football games start this week, and we are quickly leaving the lazy days of summer behind. The boys' schedules are jammed pack and we are earning the name "Go, Go Greggs"! Before we know it, October will be here and we will be gathering in Pooler, GA for our SERC Conference.

The biggest "to-do" on my list, that still needs to be checked off is securing a host state for our 2026 SERC Conference. As you prepare for Fall Council meetings, I hope you will consider hosting a future SERC Conference. Just to remind you, here are our future stops:

2023 – Pooler, GA 2024 – Little Rock, Arkansas 2025 – South Carolina 2026 – This could be you!!!

Please let me know if your state has any interest in hosting the 2026 or 2027 Conference. I am happy to work through any questions, ideas, and brainstorming opportunities. I have some thoughts, finance ideas and suggestions that will hopefully ease your mind and budget for taking on the next conference.

Please feel free to email me at tammyjo21@yahoo.com or call me at 864-483-1538 to chat.

I hope you have plans to join us in Pooler, GA at the end of October. The Georgia crew are working hard to put on a great weekend for us and you don't want to miss out. Romanda and Susan gave a great presentation at our gathering at IC and have put together some exciting tours and outings for us to enjoy. Be sure to check out the SERC website for all the details. Plan to arrive early and enjoy everything Savannah has to offer!

I look forward to seeing ya'll very soon, AND DON'T FORGET ... let me know if you are interested in hosting a future conference!

Much Love,

Tammy Gregg 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, SERC Epsilon Sigma Alpha

### News from the Convention Chair

From the desk of: Mary P Smith, Presidential Advisor

Whew! Just came back inside from seeing if water would boil outside in the sun. LOL I pray that all of you are safe and able to stay cool.

The SERC Conference is getting close. Are you planning to be there? I certainly will be. It is imperative that members of the SERC States attend the annual conference so that we can continue to support our Southeastern Region and its members. We may be small in numbers, but we are mighty. Our love for the kids at St Jude was quite evident at the IC Convention in Texas. I was so proud of the support we give to the hospital. There is still much work to be done to get the survival rate up. I am sure we will continue to find new projects and ways to earn funds for St Jude and show ESA how determined we are to help more kids survive.

Keep up the wonderful work and I hope to see many of you in Georgia.

ESA Love & Hugs, Mary

#### SERC CONFERENCE 2023



SERC is just 2 ½ months away and Georgia ESA Members are busy getting ready for a weekend that will take all of you back to your state with many memories of "Georgia's Hidden Treasures" October 27-28, 2023 in Pooler, GA. Please look at the forms included in this newsletter and register early so we can be better prepared to show you our true "Georgia Hospitality."

While we were at IC, Susie and I distributed all the forms that you might need for SERC...Registration form (has hotel information, also), and a form for an outing on October 26 that is about 7 hours long. The information

was about a Riverboat Cruise down the Savannah River, shopping/eating/fun time on River Street, and dinner at the Shellhouse Restaurant. All in the comfort of a 54-passenger bus with our own driver. The price of all of the above was \$105.00+- a dollar or two depending on the number on the bus. After returning this past week, we were notified that the Shellhouse's kitchen fire MAY prevent us from eating in their restaurant that night. So, we are busy working on an alternative place to eat and will get all of that information to you just as soon as the restaurants(s) that we are checking into gets us all the information back. REST ASSURED, you will have a place to eat that night. All of the information will be sent to you in the next week.

Please, if you are still interested in the tour, just fill out the form that states "SERC's Fun Days in Savannah/Pooler." and send it to the same name that's on the Registration Form (Angela Coleman). The tour on Thursday starts at 11:00 am.

There is a second tour. A tour of the Mighty Eighth Museum on Friday, October 27. It is on the "SERC Fun Day" form also. The cost is \$10.00. You will need to provide your own transportation for the museum. The museum is three miles from the hotel. You will be able to visit at any time during the day, but if there is enough interest, a private tour will be set up for those of you wanting to visit the Mighty Eighth Museum.

Be sure to watch the dates on all the forms. The AD form is an earlier date and the bus could fill up quickly, so don't wait, get your Conference Registration Form, the AD Form (to Pat Griffin), your hotel registration (call the hotel or go on line), and tour forms in the mail.

Georgia is anxiously awaiting your visit here in Pooler. Shopping (outlets one mile away), eating (restaurants of any kind), cooler weather, and FUN, FUN, FUN await you as you discover "Georgia's Hidden Treasures" October 27-28, 2023.

Susan and Romanda

## News from the Association of the Arts Chair

#### 2023 SERC Convention Association of the Arts

### Got your items finished? If not, you still have time!

1. Painting



4. Visual Art

Please fill out the entry form attached and mail it to me.
It needs to be postmarked by September 27, 2023

Mail to: Susan Garner, Co-Chair 2015 Daniel Rd Villa Rica, GA 30180

Each artist is limited to one (1) entry for each Division.

#### There are 8 Divisions:

3. Fibers

2. Literature

| Oils           | Poetry   | Quilting   | Photography    |
|----------------|--|--|----------------|
| Acrylics       | Short Story                                      | Crewel/Embroidery                                    | (see form for  |
| Watercolors    | Humorous Essay<br>(see form for<br>more details) | Counted Cross Stitch Knitting Needlepoint Crocheting | more details)  |
| 5. Painted Art | 6. Holiday Art                                   | 7. Wearable Art                                      | 8. Mixed Media |
| Pottery        | Ornaments  | Sewing   | Stamp Art      |
| Ceramics       | Decorations                                      | Fabric Painting                                      | Decoupage      |
| Porcelain      |  | Jewelry  | Glass Wood     |
| China Painting |  |  | Other          |

### News from International Council President



Brenda Meyers International Council President 2023-2024

Congratulations to SERC!

What a great time we all had at the IC Convention in Grapevine. So many awards and accolades to all the member states.

Congratulations to the SERC members serving on the 2023 -2024 IC Council with us this year.

Lynda Edwards (AL) 1st Vice President
Betty Keeton (AL) 24-25 Corr'g Secretary
Denise Holdaway Jr. Past President

Serving on the Appointed Board by state are:

ALABAMA: Sandy Weston ARKANSAS: Theda Hall

Sandy Fletcher

Trish Villines

FLORIDA: Sandra Edwards GEORGIA: Romanda Talley KENTUCKY Theresa Anderson

Kelli Thornberry

LOUISANA: Terri Sayre
N. CAROLINA: Anthe Tyndell

Lauren Ryan

S. CAROLINA: Tammy Gregg TENNESSEE: Jennifer Galley

I am extremely thankful for all of SERC members' gift of service to ESA. These members along with the SERC state presidents will definitely be making Connections!

Looking forward to a great year ahead!



### News from Webmaster

#### Webmaster Vicky Jones

Make sure you're checking out the SERC website. It is full of information. Go to: CSA-SCIC.COM

If you need to open a document that is password protected use: SERC1234

Please send pictures, state rosters and other information to: vickyjones325@bellsouth.net



"A website is a window through which our organization says hello to the world."

### News from Friends

Article for Butterfly Express - September 2023 issue

Florida State Council

Nine members of the Florida State Council attended the International Convention in Grapevine, Texas. Everyone had a great time. As president I want to thank each attending member for their support and guidance during the convention. Especially Sue's Sunshine Gals, Jan Billias, Barbara Floyd, Barbara Kalm and Kay Patskoski. We are disappointed that our candidate for workshop coordinator, Sandra Edwards, did not win. Congratulations to Margaret Kramer.

The FSC board meeting will be on August 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be reviewing IC Convention activities and planning for our October 14<sup>th</sup> Mid-year meeting.

We are looking forward to attending the SERC Conference in Pooler, GA in October. Several members are thinking about taking the train from Central Florida to Savannah. What an adventure that could be.

We are looking forward to a great year and looking for new members.





**Pictured above:** Florida State Council members getting ready for the Welcome Party. From Left to right: Allan Ceriale, Barbara Floyd Kay Patskoski, Sue Ceriale, Joy Lehnert, Barbara Kalm. Kneeling are Jan Billias and Christine Bishop.

**Pictured above:** Sue and Allan Ceriale (Florida) and Dorothy Morey (California).

Sue Ceriale 2023-2024 Florida State Council President

Hi everyone,

Have you recovered from a fabulous IC convention? I hope so. There were many amazing workshops, speakers, and field trips. My favorite part is connecting with old friends and making new ones.

I am Dawn Middleton serving as the MS State President for the 2023-2024 year. My theme is "And The Beat Goes On". We need to share our heartbeat with others. If you know of someone in Mississippi that is interested in joining ESA, please let me know. We will help them in every way possible. Hope to see you in Pooler!

Hello everyone,

IC was such a wonderful conference. I hope that everyone has cooled off a bit. Still very hot down south in MS. We are excited about the SERC conference. As finance chairs, we are asking each state to bring a bag/purse with at least \$100 of gift cards to be auctioned off. There will be a 50/50 raffle and a few items that we will be auctioning off. So, save up and bring your money to Pooler!

Casey Hoffman

Dawn Middleton

#### Kentucky SERC Article

Greetings from Kentucky!! Summer is coming to an end and school is back in session. For ESA members, spring and summer were busy times in Kentucky.

Alpha Theta Bowling Green's annual Heart Luncheon and Fashion Show was a big success raising over \$3,000 for the American Heart Association. Nancy Foster coordinated a get-together at Olive Garden in May. Sonya Corder and Marthena Burr spread a "summer treat" prior to the June meeting. Sonya Corder received her 3rd Degree of Pallas Athene. Alpha Theta's Salad Social and Bingo, coordinated by Dorothy Hunter and Martha Morgan, raised \$300 for Easterseals.

At their July meeting, Gamma Tau Henderson, was pleased to welcome Sally Potts from a local non-profit, Small Beginnings. Their mission is "every girl in the world have access to quality, sustainable hygiene and health education". This organization makes handmade kits that will last each girl several years. The kits are a ribbon-tied, colorful fabric bag containing instructions on how to use and clean the contents of the kit, 2 pairs of panties, 6 flannel lined, waterproof pads and a small bar of soap. Everything is reusable. These kits go out to local homeless shelters, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Lebanon, and Cuba. Gamma Tau donated monies to the charity to be used to purchase the special fabric.

Delta Tau Louisville has been incredibly busy! Early in the year, they donated supplies and \$50 to SPRC (Single Parent Resource Center), a program that helps single parents working and going to school. In March, Water with Blessings hosted their meeting. They gave Sister Larraine \$500 to continue the organization's work to provide filters for clean water across the world. In May, they had a HUGE \$1,400 yard sale for St. Jude!! In July, at the Mt. Washington Craft Fair, they raised \$700 for St. Jude and other charities.

Delta Tau Louisville and Kappa Psi Louisville have spent the summer managing the ticket office for the 4 Kentucky Dream Homes. This goes from mid-May thru sell-out. As of August 10th, the Lexington house is sold-out. Bowling Green and Paducah should sell out before the end of the month, and Louisville will sell-out by mid-September. It is a labor of love by all involved with MANY hours opening/sorting mail, making deposit slips, entering batches, and printing/separating tickets.

Five Kentucky members attended IC Convention in Grapevine, TX. Vicky Jones, Diana Cohen, Karen Williams, Kelli Thornberry, and Dee Dee Gnadinger. We came in a few days early to tour the area and were joined by Illinois sisters Kathleen Grisson and Paula Winchester. We toured The Stockyards,

Southfork Ranch, and the 6th floor museum at Dealy Plaza. In Waco, we took a "Fixer Upper" bus tour, ate at Magnolia Table, toured the Dr. Pepper Museum, and shopped at the Magnolia Silos. IC Convention was wonderful also! It was great to see old friends again. Kelli was hilarious in the YMCA Lip Sync. My favorite part was Kentucky finishing 6th in the St. Jude Presentation of Dollars. Go Kentucky!!

Diana Cohen















#### Susan Garner Georgia State Council President 2023-2024



Hello SERC family,

Georgia has been working hard on the St. Jude Dream Home in Atlanta, Georgia. This is the first time we have had a Dream Home in the Atlanta area and it was a huge success. All 15,000 tickets were sold and the giveaway will be on August 3, 2023. A lucky winner will receive this beautiful home!



Vicki Warren (our State's Hope for Heroes Chair) and her husband are both members of the Patriot Guard Riders. The Patriot Guard Riders hosted an ice cream social and bingo at the Trinka Davis Veterans Home in Carrollton, Georgia last month and I believe this will become a monthly event. Some of our Georgia Chapters were able to attend and help serve ice cream and socialize with the residents.







Most of our Chapters have taken off for the summer but we will all be back in full force in the next month or so. We have our Leadership/Fall Board coming up in September and I am looking forward to seeing my Georgia ESA family.

After that, we have the SERC Convention in October and Georgia has been working very hard to bring you a great convention, so go ahead and get those hotel rooms booked and your registration form sent in.

See you in Pooler, where its cooler!



This is one of the things you will see if you sign up for P. Allen Smith's Moss Mountain tour at SERC, 2024.

I have seen this and it is amazing!!

Hopefully you are savings your pennies and will be able to take this tour. Cost is \$150 which includes transportation, lunch, tour of house, gardens, and farm, and hopefully, get to hear Allen speak!

Another recipe from P. Allen Smith:

### **Buttermilk Chocolate Chess Pie**



### **Ingredients**

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 1/2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1 pie crust, 9-inch
- powdered sugar to dust on top

#### **Instructions**

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- 2. In a large bowl, whisk together the sugar, cocoa powder, and flour. Add in the beaten eggs, melted butter, vanilla extract, and buttermilk. Stir well to combine.
- 3. Pour the mixture into the unbaked pie shell being cautious not to over-fill. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes or until a crust has formed completely across the top of the pie and is mostly set. There will still be some jiggle to the pie. Allow to cool completely before slicing and serving.