



**Epsilon Sigma Alpha
Southeast Regional Council
2023-2024**

April 2024 News

From the President Laura

Where is the year going? We just entered the season of Spring. Here in North Carolina, Spring means “yellow” season. The pollen sure is irritating my sinuses.

In April, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky will host their state conventions. WOW! Already? The SERC Reps will assist your states in any capacity you need. Please reach out to them.

I want to hear how you are Reaching with your Heart. What kind of activities have you held or have planned? Have you reached out with a random act of kindness?

I encourage you to say “Thanks” to someone who has inspired you, helped you, or encouraged you. It’s easy to do and can make a huge impact! I encourage you to be an advocate for a cause that causes you to reach deep in your heart and FIGHT for the right thing! I encourage you to donate a unit of blood. This is especially dear to all of us now. I lost my husband in August 2023, and we used many units of blood in his fight for cancer. Our own, Tammy Gregg is battling cancer now and has received many units of blood in her fight. She is asking us to help. Let’s not let her down.

Remember, we have a Facebook page for SERC, share your stories. Remember, Joy Lynn Tynes is our chaplain. Share your joys & concerns with her, cjtynes@bellsouth.net.

Keep Reaching,
Laura

Update Regarding 1st Vice President Tammy

On April 3, 2024, Tammy Gregg, our current SERC 1st VP resigned her position due to ailing health.

The executive board jumped into action and followed Robert's Rule of Order for succession since our bylaws do not address this succession. Thus, Dawn Middleton the current 2nd VP is now the current 1st VP. The executive board voted Lauren Ryan into the vacant 2nd VP spot.

We encourage our membership to think about running for office or offering to serve in a general board position. You will find updated forms shortly via the SERC website. All forms will go to:

Dawn Middleton
P.O. Box 1181
Summit, MS 39666
Cell: 601-810-6508

dawnmittleton1@gmail.com

From the New 1st Vice President Dawn

Hello Sisters,

Hope you had a wonderful Easter/Spring Break. I tried to relax but am also getting ready for state testing at the high school. I will be attending the Arkansas and Louisiana state conventions and am really excited. The SERC conference will be held in N. Little Rock this fall. Please make plans to attend. We are still looking for bids for the 2026 conference. Please check with your state members or join with another state to host. If you have any questions don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Hope to see you in Kansas City for IC.

I am now collecting Nomination forms for Exec Board positions and Willingness to Serve forms for appointed board positions. The deadline is June 1st.

Love and Hugs, Dawn Middleton, 1st Vice-President

From the New 2nd Vice President & Corresponding Secretary Lauren

It is with a heavy heart that I have moved into the position of 2nd Vice President. I will be holding Tammy and her family tightly in my heart as her journey continues. In my new position I will continue to Reach with My Heart to serve ESA & SERC to be best of my abilities. If you would like to place a bid for the 2026 conference, please let me know!

The Exec board just reached with our hearts and held their first ever between conferences fundraiser with Double Good. We raised \$980 in four days!!! Thank you to everyone who participated, purchased, or shared the fundraiser!

Agape, Lauren Ryan

From Parliamentarian Casey

Spring is here!! I can look out my window and see budding trees, flowers, birds and all manner of life being reborn. Oh, and tons of pollen. Spring is such a wonderful time of renewal and cleansing. One thing that needs a little attention – a little clean up – is our SERC bylaws. As your states have your annual meetings, please encourage your membership to take a peak at the bylaws and see if they see anything that they feel should be looked at and maybe revised. If ya'll see something that needs a little brushing off, please write up your suggestions and email to me.

The SERC parliamentarian email address is: sercparliamentarian@gmail.com .

Any revisions you would like to have considered at our SERC meeting in October must be submitted to me in writing by June 1, 2024. I will include any suggested revisions in my next newsletter article.

Have a wonderful spring!

Casey Hoffman
Parliamentarian

From Jr. Past President Theda

DISASTER FUND CALLING!

Are you ready for Spring! I sure am! Today, it is raining and a good time to clean off my desk and do some filing and some tasks that I have been putting off like writing this article!

As your past SERC President, I am your Disaster Fund Chair for the Southeastern Regional Council.

I am attaching a copy of the ESA International Council Disaster Fund Application and the IC Disaster Fund Guidelines. Each state usually has their own donation form for the Disaster Fund. These donations need to be send to the IC Disaster Fund Chair, Denise Holdaway, 902 Pierce Lane, Blytheville, AR 72315. Please send me a copy of your form so I can keep track of SERC's contributions to this Fund. Also, please distribute this info as necessary. They can be also found on the IC website.

Many of us in the Southeastern Regional Council have used this fund. It is meant to assist an ESA member whose home and/or personal belongings are damaged or destroyed extensively by one of nature's causes—fire, flood, earthquake, etc. Also, it can be used when a member incurs heavy financial responsibility due to a debilitating sickness or accident, which involved the member or their spouse or immediate family who resides in the house due to physical or mental impairment whom they have legal partnership over and are legally responsible.

So, you see, this covers a wide range of unforeseen circumstances. This fund was established back in 1956 and the total amount that can be given is \$8,000.

And, of course, the three top states contributing the most money will also be recognized at the SERC Awards Luncheon.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Theda Hall, SERC Disaster Chair
2022-23 Past President
4400 Tahoe Circle Drive
Springdale, AR 72762

SERC Convention Information

I have attached the 2024 SERC Conference Registration form, Ad form, and Tour form. I have also included the links to the online registration and payment forms if anyone would like to take advantage of that option. There is a service fee included with the online payments.

Register and Pay Online Links: (these links are also included on the word doc versions)

Conference Registration - <https://forms.gle/bxratsTGf5UNSqZm8>

Ad Form - <https://forms.gle/CBLTugS5cpnTR2ic9>

Tour Form - <https://forms.gle/muGcCjvxmqYZymUB9>

For the tours - since there was not enough interest in the Moss Mountain tour, we are looking at an alternative. We had our Spring meeting this past Saturday and received a few suggestions to look into. Once we have something confirmed, I will update both the word version attached and the online form. If you prefer to hold off on posting that one to the website, you're welcome to - whatever is easier.

The Esse Purse Museum is confirmed and I have attached an "about" document here that the board can use to reference on your upcoming state visits.

If you have any questions or need anything else at this time, please let me know.

Thank you!
Meghan (missmegs89@gmail.com)

IT'S A GREAT DAY IN ALABAMA

Alabama ESA started 2024 with something special when members were treated to a bit of "old south" at its February Council meeting hosted by Beta Nu. Lynda Edwards ensured the event, held at Prattville's historic Buena Vista, was nothing short of elegant. Chapters attending were Alpha Pi from Selma, Delta Gamma and Zeta Chi from Florence, Iota Alpha from Montgomery, Alpha Alpha from Cullman, Kappa Alpha from Heflin, and Alpha Omega from Birmingham. When finished with the Council's business meeting, members had fun trying to solve a word puzzle. They were treated to a lunch from down "ole Mexico" followed by a delicious southern chocolate dessert made by Chef Lynda Edwards.

Chapters continue with their philanthropic projects in support of our designated charities, but Alpha Pi in Selma is relentless in its efforts to support not only St Jude Children's' Research Hospital but also Selma's many efforts helping their citizens who suffered immeasurably from the devastating tornado two years ago. However, all of our Alabama chapters are serious about fulfilling their commitments to ESA.

We are excited about the plans we have lined up for this year's state convention to be held at Alabama's 4H Center nestled in the woods of Columbiana, May 3-4. And we all are busy digging through our trunks and searching attics for hats to celebrate America's longest-running sports event—the Kentucky Derby. While it may be the longest-running sports event, it is actually the fastest sports event!! However, we hope our Derby bingo Friday night is as exciting as the actual race on Saturday. We definitely know the games will last more than the Derby's two minutes.

While we may be focused on our convention for now, we are buzzing with excitement as we plan our trip to Overland Park in support of Lynda Edwards as she is installed as IC president in July. Lynda is one of the most dynamic persons you will ever meet and is definitely passionate about ESA. We look forward to all that Lynda will be able to accomplish as IC International president.

It's great to be a member of ESA where members are devoted to serving others while still having fun.

Jo Perry

President, Alabama ESA

