



**Epsilon Sigma Alpha
Southeast Regional
Council**

June 2024 News

President Laura

It's June already? By now, all states celebrated their successes by hosting their conventions. The executive board traveled to the SERC states and enjoyed learning, experiencing, and celebrating with the members. It is interesting to learn different ways we can achieve our main goals. Each state has its own flavor. Some states are more casual or in a relaxed setting, while others still hold to the formal traditions and JAZZ it up!

I look forward to seeing you all at IC in Kansas. It'll be here shortly. Remember, there will be a SERC Gathering on Thursday afternoon. Please check your agenda for where and when.

Keep Reaching,
Laura Gnewuch

1st Vice President Dawn

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is having a fine start to their summer. In early May, I had the privilege of attending the Arkansas State Council Convention in Conway. They did a wonderful job. On Friday there was a PPA luncheon downtown and then we went to Toad Suck Daze, a local family-friendly festival. Games at the Friday night mixer included making up a cheer for a city and doing an Arkansas city crossword puzzle. Back to business on Saturday and Sunday and had a little time for shopping once we were finished. Arkansas did a great job and am so proud of them for their accomplishments.

I just returned from the Louisiana State Council Convention in Ruston, which is known for their peaches. I didn't get any fresh ones; they sold out 30 minutes before I got to the farm. Bummer. I did get peach salsa though. Friday night dinner was at Beau Vine's (I recommend highly) who is owned by St. Jude parents. The mother of the patient spoke to us and everything is now good with her little boy. They also own Red Eye Grill in New Orleans and Breck & Vale Clothing Co. (online). Saturday and Sunday were business, but we also learned about where to donate old wedding dresses to make burial dresses for stillborn babies. We also learned about donating stuffed animals for first responders, to have with them to comfort children in traumatic situations and Hearts of Hope, which deals with abuse.

Congratulations to the new Arkansas and Louisiana board members!

We as ESA are definitely out in the community and working hard to make this world a better place and I want to thank you for that.

Remember the deadline for executive board nominations is June 15. Please think about running for an office. I will still accept appointed board forms.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Kansas City in July and Little Rock in October.

Dawn Middleton

2nd Vice President & Corresponding Secretary Lauren

The end of June is here, and IC Convention is just a moment away. I hope to see many of you at IC Convention and for those unable to attend I hope to see you at our SERC Conference in Oct. With the unexpected shift in my responsibilities, I have been spending time looking through The Torch and thinking about the future. For those that don't know, The Torch is our SERC book of information. It holds everything from our history to award information. It is located on the SERC website if you want to learn more!

I had the privilege to attend Tennessee's State Convention in April. I had a wonderful time, met some new people, and got to reconnect with good friends. I even got to spend two weekends in a row with some ESA members who were also at the NC State Convention! The food was delicious, and I was not surprised because their newly installed State President Emmie Owens 'hit a home run' at Leadership with her food-based ideas for events. It was my first time in Pigeon Forge and got to do a little sightseeing adventure. I was impressed with all that TN has accomplished this year and cannot wait to hear what they do next!



The Executive Board will be having another fundraiser in August with Carolina Sugar Clouds to help with travel expenses. This is a local North Carolina company that is owned and operated by an ESA Member. Details will be provided after IC Convention.

Next Newsletter articles are due September 1st.

Please email them to me and Laura: laurengeryan@gmail.com laura.gnewuch@gmail.com

Agape Lauren Ryan

Parliamentarian Casey

Oh my goodness, where has this year gone? It is already time to review bylaw revisions! That means our annual SERC conference is right around the corner.

So, are you ready for a little light reading (ha!).

Here they are.

Casey Hoffman

Bylaw Change Recommendations 2023-2024 SERC

Article III - Members

Section 2. The membership of the Southeastern Regional Council of ESA International shall consist of representatives of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Change to Read:

The membership of the Southeastern Regional Council of ESA International shall consist of representatives of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Reason: Omit Maryland since they no longer have a state council

ARTICLE III - Members

Section 3. Now Reads:

Annual dues of \$15 per state shall be due and payable into the SERC treasury on the first day of January.

Change to Read:

Annual dues in the amount stated in the Southeastern Regional Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha International Standing Rules shall be paid by each State to the SERC treasury by the first of January.

Reason:

We need to remove the numerical amount of the dues from the Bylaws and move them into the Standing Rules so that we can more easily make dues adjustment changes.

Article VIII - Meetings

Section 2. Now States:

The annual Conference site shall be selected on a rotational basis, and the Southeastern Region shall be divided into three (3) sections. The states comprising each section shall be:

Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and
Tennessee Kentucky, Maryland, North
Carolina, and Virginia Alabama, Florida,
Georgia, and South Carolina

The manner of rotation shall be in the sequence named above. The SERC president shall be the designated party to sign the official contact for hosting a SERC conference. The Conference may be sponsored by a Region, state or multiples of states, with hostesses sharing one-half the profit with SERC.

Change to Read:

The annual Conference site shall be selected on a rotational basis, and the Southeastern Region shall be divided into three (3) sections. The states comprising each section shall be:

Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, & Louisiana
Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina & Virginia
Alabama, Florida & Georgia

The manner of rotation shall be in the sequence named above. In the event, no state within the designated section bids, then any state within the SERC Region shall have the opportunity to bid for the annual conference.

The SERC president shall be the designated party to sign the official contact for hosting a SERC conference. The Conference may be sponsored by a Region, state or multiples of states, with hostesses sharing one-half the profit with SERC.

Reason:

First, Maryland does not have a state council, so they should be eliminated from the group. The above grouping is in a closer proximity to each other than the previous grouping, and makes it easier for multiple states to host convention.

Article VIII - Meetings

Section 3. Now States:

The annual Conference site for two (2) years in advance shall be selected by ballot vote during a called SERC meeting at the International Council Convention. In the event of only one (1) Conference bid, voting may be by general consent. The Hostess City and/or the State, sending a copy of the Conference bid to the 2nd Vice President by April 15, shall determine date, place and a pre- approved registration fee for the annual Conference. The registration rate for the Conference shall be submitted to the Executive Board by March 15 for approval. A copy of the Conference budget shall be submitted with the formal bid. Should there be a need to raise/lower the registration fee, after the State was selected for the Conference at the SERC Meeting at the International Council convention, a letter stating the amount and reason shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. The hotel contract shall be submitted to the Hotel Contracts Chairman, for recommendations, additions and deletions by February 15, prior to the Formal Bid being submitted to the Second Vice President.

Change to Read:

The site of the SERC Conference shall be determined by a ballot vote of the membership at the annual SERC conference three years hence from bids submitted.

The Hostess city and/or state shall send a courtesy bid to the 2nd Vice-President by April 15th. Two years or more from the SERC Conference, the bidding city and/or state shall submit the proposed conference rate to the SERC Executive Board by March 15 for approval. A copy of the Conference budget shall be submitted with the formal bid.

The hotel contract shall be submitted to the Hotel Contracts Committee for recommendations, additions and deletions. The SERC president shall be the designated party to sign the official contact for hosting a SERC conference.

Should there be a need to raise/lower the registration fee, after the State was selected for the Conference at the SERC Conference a letter stating the amount and reason shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

Reason:

Due to difficulty getting hotels, it is necessary to obtain information 3 years in advance. Due to cost changes, it's best to wait 2 years out to submit the registration rate and budget. We do not hold business meetings at IC Convention, unless a Special Call meeting is announced, plus more of the SERC membership will be at the SERC Conference than the IC Convention.

Article VIII - Meetings

Section 4: Now Reads:

Special meetings may be held at the call of the President or by the Executive Board.

Change to Read:

Section 4: Insert the following and renumber existing Sections 4-5 as 5-6

The Second Vice President shall provide site ballots, if needed, for distribution by the Credentials Committee. Selection shall be determined by a plurality vote cast by delegates. In the event only one bid is received, voting shall be by General Consent.

ARTICLE XII - Appointed Officers and Standing Committees

Section 1. Now Reads

There shall be the following appointed officers: Finance Chair, Scrapbook Chair, SERCH Editor, Chaplain, Auditor, Awards Chair, ESA for St. Jude Chairs - Senior and Junior, Easterseals Chair, Hotel Contracts Chair and the Association of the Arts Chair.

Change to read:

There shall be the following appointed officers: Finance Chair, SERCH Editor, Chaplain, Auditor, Awards Chair, ESA for St. Jude Chairs - Senior and Junior, Easterseals Chair, Hotel Contracts Chair and the Association of the Arts Chair.

Reason:

Remove Scrapbook Chair. Since the SERC Executive Board is trying to watch the budget and has the fiduciary responsibility to cut cost that are not needed. Scrapbooks are a perk, and not necessarily needed.

ARTICLE XII - Appointed Officers and Standing Committees

Section 1. b

Now Reads:

- b) The Scrapbook Chair shall prepare a scrapbook of the year's activities, using material furnished by the SERC President and Southeastern State Presidents, pertaining to activities of their State Council, and present the scrapbook to the SERC President at the annual Conference.

Delete Section 1b and renumber existing c - k as b-j

Rule 10. Now Reads:

All checks written by the SERC Treasurer shall be co-signed by the SERC President. Furthermore, a copy of the monthly bank statements shall be forwarded to the President immediately upon receipt. (Nov 1999)

Change to read:

All checks written by the SERC Treasurer require email approval from the SERC President. The email approval shall be saved to a flash drive and shall be given to the next treasurer for accounting purposes. The email approvals shall be kept for a minimum of 7 (seven) years. Furthermore, a copy of the monthly bank statements shall be forwarded to the President immediately upon receipt.

Reason:

Acquiring dual signatures for officers in different states is extremely hard. It has taken months to get the officers on a signature card slowing the process of reimbursements to our members. Email approval gives us a documented trail on transactions.

Rule 12. Now Reads:

Each chapter in the SERC States is requested to make a minimum annual donation of \$10.00 paid to the SERC Treasurer (July 2022).

Change to Read:

Each chapter in the SERC States is requested to make a minimum annual donation of \$15.00 paid to the SERC Treasurer.

Reason:

Our annual budget is dependent on donations from our SERC Chapters. This requested donation amount has not been increased in many years and would help to bring our annual budget into alignment with our current expenses.

Add Rule 18:

The annual dues of \$30 per State shall be due and payable into the SERC treasury on the first day of January.

Reason:

We need to remove the numerical amount of the dues from the Bylaws and move them

into the Standing rules so that we can more easily make dues adjustment changes.

We have not increased our state dues in many years. We need to make this increase to help bring our annual budget into alignment with current expenses.

Jr. Past President Theda

Happy Summer to all!

What a beautiful day it is today! The sun is shining, the grass is green, the flowers are blooming, the trees are swaying, and the birds are singing. What more does one need, except peace.

I spent the weekend of May 16 – 19th in Charleston, South Carolina, with the South Carolina members at their annual convention as the SERC Rep, at the Wyndham Hotel in Charleston. Both Margaret Kramer (I C Rep) arrived about the same time on Thursday night and got to sleep in on Friday morning. Unfortunately, Margaret's suitcase did not arrive until Friday close to noon. We helped decorate the meeting room and then Vicki Duggan took us to Sondra Kucklick's home for the board meeting and the Mixer Party. We had a delicious meal – pulled pork, coleslaw, pickles, potato salad and chocolate covered strawberries and **HOME-MADE ICE CREAM**, made by Terry Holifield! What a treat!!

Saturday morning was the First General Meeting. Unfortunately, President Nili Young could not attend, as she was tending to new puppies born that Saturday morning so, Sondra Kucklick presided over the meeting. Our I C rep, Margaret Kramer presented the workshop which was a lipstick balm that is easy to make. Each participant was able to make 3 – 4 small jars of this balm. We also learned that the 2025 SERC Conference will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Awards luncheon consisted of sandwiches and cookies. Then, we got down to business with both Margaret and I presenting the Service Awards to Vickie Duggan for 45 years of service and Twanda Atkinson for 15 years of service. Many more awards were presented. The highlight of the Awards Luncheon was the “crowning” of the Woman of the Year even though it was thru Zoom. The South Carolina “Woman of the Year” was **TAMMY GREGG!** We got to see and talk with her thru Zoom. It was so good to see her and there wasn't a dry eye in the room when we finished the celebration. Congratulations, **Tammy** – you deserved this award. That evening was installation of the new officers with **Sondra Kucklick** as President. Her theme this year, is “**Growing my ESA Garden Under The Stars**” Then, Loree Parker did the “Price is Right” St Jude Presentation. This was an unusual and fun presentation for South Carolina's St Jude Children's Research Hospital donation. I won't tell you the total—you will have to wait until IC to find this out.

An auction followed with crochet blankets made by Terry Holifield and then a 50-50 drawing. I have to say that I won this drawing -- \$150. Wow, first time I have won a 50-50 drawing!

Thanks to the South Carolina members. I had such a great time being your SERC Rep and look forward to seeing some of them at the IC Convention and the SERC Conference.

As I side note, don't forget your Disaster Fund Donations. Just a week ago, we had 7 tornadoes touch down in NW Arkansas, where many of our members live and it was a disaster. Fortunately, none of our members were injured—some damage to their homes, though. It just goes to show you why we have a Disaster Fund in ESA. Send your donations to Denise Holdaway, 902 Pierce Lane, Blytheville, AR 72315. You can find more info on the IC Website.

Can't wait to see all of you in Overland Park, KS in just a few short weeks.

Theda Hall

Recording Secretary Jennifer

WOW!!! What a busy but incredible month May was! It was such an honor to serve as the SERC rep at both the Alabama and Georgia conventions! Both locations were absolutely beautiful, and I felt so much love from all my ESA sisters! So many wonderful memories and now I am looking forward to IC in a few weeks! As the IC ESA for St. Jude Jr rep, I wanted to personally encourage anyone going to IC to sign up for the IC Challenge. Also, would love to see many SERC sisters sign up to participate or volunteer at the St. Jude Memphis Marathon in December! Reach out to me for questions about either! Everyone enjoy your summer and see many of you soon!

Jennifer Gailey - TN



SERC Convention Information

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/muGcCjvxnqYZymUB9>

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

Thank you!

Meghan (missmegs89@gmail.com)

Georgia State Council Article for SERC Newsletter

Greetings to all our SERC sisters from all your Georgia sisters. It is already a very busy year! We had a great state convention in May at Unicoi State Park near Helen, GA. This is a beautiful setting in north Georgia. The very talented Jennifer Gailey was our SERC representative and I think she enjoyed being there as much as we enjoyed having her. She is pictured giving her SERC presentation.



We installed new officers and celebrated our accomplishments for the year. This is Georgia's St. Jude total!



Following Convention, the first issue of our state newsletter, the "Jaw-Ja Jonquil" was published in June. The following link will allow you to view the newsletter.

[2024 June Jaw-Ja-Jonquil Vol 36-Issue 1](#)

Plans are set for six Georgia members to attend IC Convention in Kansas in July. We can't wait. The agenda looks jammed packed with great events with the only downside is having to do a carry-on for just shoes! As soon as we return (the following weekend) our new Executive Board will be meeting for a planning session that we call a "retreat". Fun will be had but the focus will be preparing for Leadership and our State Fall Board Meeting. We will be meeting in Pooler, where its cooler for the two-day event. If any would like to attend and we would love to have you visit, please contact me and I will send you a registration form. I look forward to seeing many of you at IC Convention!

Susie Knudson

2024-2025 Georgia State Council President

Good Times in Kentucky!

I was so excited to represent SERC at the Kentucky State Council Annual Meeting in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. The meeting was held the weekend of April 19 – 21, 2024. I can attest that a good time was had by all!! The weekend kicked off the with a painting party hosted by the Kentucky PPA. We traveled to a beautiful old building in the downtown area that has been converted into an event space. And we had an event – we each painted a wonderful wooden wreath to adorn our front doors at home (or to present as a gift to someone special). Mine is hanging on my front door right now and I have received so many compliments! The meeting began Saturday morning in usual ESA style with a flag ceremony. As a "military brat", flag ceremonies are so special to me. President, Diana Cohen led the meeting. The business meeting was broken up by short craft sessions – making decoupage boxes. After business, you know we ate – and the food was delicious. The evening brought the installation of new officers, with Kelli Thornberry being installed as the new president. More good food and an ice cream bar for Diana Cohen's reception! A memorial service for 3 wonderful Kentucky members who were obviously well loved was held on Sunday morning.

If you have never been to a Kentucky meeting, I highly recommend that you put it on your bucket list. I was honored to attend and plan to go back next year. Thank you to my Kentucky sisters for your hospitality and for letting me crash the party!

Casey Hoffman, Parliamentarian

North Carolina State Council

North Carolina enjoyed a relaxing weekend back in April at Oak Island for our 72nd Annual State Convention. We celebrated Jan Faulkner as she concluded her two years as our president and welcomed in a new board with Evelyn Greene as the 2024-2026 president.

A few of us climbed the many steps of the Oak Island lighthouse (7 landings with 17 steps each!)...most enjoyed the view from the bottom. There were walks on the beach, lots of delicious food, great conversation and beautiful memories made.

Karmen Custer from Hope Harbor Home joined us and shared how her organization is helping victims of domestic violence in North Carolina. Learn more about their organization and how you can support them at www.hopeharborhome.org.

Several of us will be attending IC Convention in July and SERC in October. We can't wait to see everyone! We are looking forward to learning, sharing, and growing in ESA this year.





Evelyn Greene Dudley



North Carolina State Chapter Chi Delta

It is an honor to have some VERY special members in the Chi Delta Chapter and we wanted to take a minute to recognize and celebrate them!

Laura Gnewuch has been a member of ESA for 28 years and has served at every level of the organization including State President more than once! She is now serving as our SERC President and Reaching with her Heart in all she does in Esa and beyond. Laura transferred to the Chi Delta Chapter when it was Chartered in November 2018. We are so proud to have you as a member of our Chapter!



Chi Delta is also honored to have the North Carolina State President Eve Greene Dudley as a member of our Chapter. Eve is a founding member of Chi Delta and has quickly progressed through the Chapter and State Executive Boards. We cannot wait to see where you go next!



ALABAMA ON THE MOVE



The Alabama State Convention, held at Alabama's 4-H Center, nestled on Lay Lake in Columbiana, was a resounding success. This achievement was not only the result of the efforts of a few but also a testament to the collective strength of all the chapters and individuals. We were truly blessed to have the support of people like Sandy Weston (Kappa Alpha), Anita Crittenden, Trish Hamm, Betty Keeton, Beth Thompson (Delta Gamma), Betty Bain, and April McCartney (Alpha Pi). Their contributions, coupled with the exceptional support from the 4-H Center staff, ensured that the event was nothing short of a triumph. We were honored with guests Jennifer Gailey, SERC Recording Secretary, and Lynda Edwards, IC First Vice President/President-Elect.

Activities began Friday night with a delicious dinner, followed by fun-filled Derby Bingo, where winners won gifts donated by each chapter. As always, laughter and congeniality permeate the activities when Alabama ESA members gather. Breakfast on Saturday morning preceded the short Executive Board meeting, which included presentations on "Connecting in ESA" by Betty Keeton and "ESA Foundation" by Kathleen Carmadella, followed by more eating and socializing. The awards ceremony allowed chapters to take pride in their accomplishments in supporting St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Easter Seals, Hope for Heroes, and local philanthropic endeavors. Recognition was given to members who excelled in helping their chapters. Unique arts and crafts were exhibited, and members voted for those deemed extraordinary. Before the evening activities, Jo Perry, president, hosted a reception on the patio. Since the Kentucky Derby took place late Saturday afternoon, later activities required everyone to strut and show off their Derby Hats. Although each hat was incredible, Maleah Chaney, Zeta Chi, did receive a gift for having the most outstanding hat.

As all good things must come to an end, so did the Alabama Convention 2024. With lots of hugs and kisses on Sunday morning, the anticipation for the next event in Overland filled the air, leaving everyone with a sense of excitement and eagerness. "See you in Overland," resounded around the parking lot, a testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of our Alabama ESA community.

Jo Perry

Alabama ESA President

