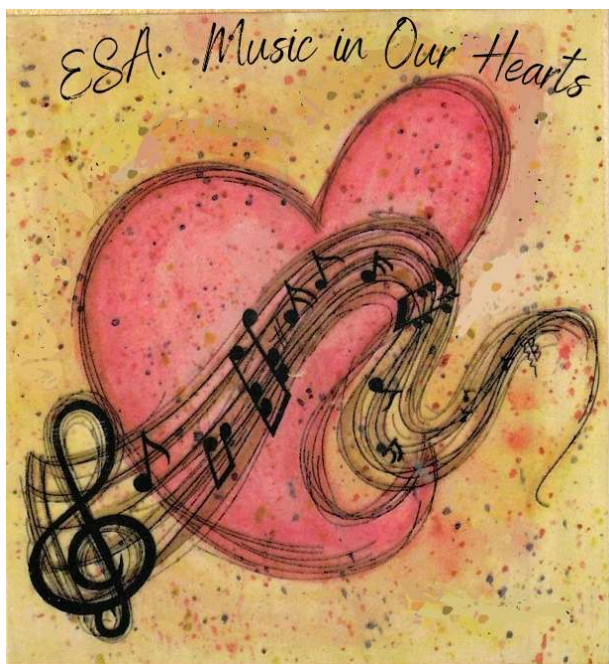




Southeast Regional Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha

June 2025

Newsletter



Hello Everyone,

How is your summer? Staying cool, I hope. I had the privilege of attending three state conventions but only one in official capacity. Florida did an outstanding job on making me feel welcome. Friday afternoon, we made cards and learned to Zentangle. At the welcome party everyone dressed in 1960's style and Celeste and I were tasked with choosing the best costume. Not an easy one. They also had Celeste and I do a balloon popping contest. I'm sure someone has pictures. The meetings on Saturday and Sunday went very well. I want to congratulate Joy Lehnert and her board. They will do a wonderful job.

I also retired at the end of May. It has not hit me yet and probably won't until August. Going to Breckinridge to play in a concert and then of course to Cary. We will have a great time. I hope to see you there.

I am asking that state presidents send their new rosters to me so I have the correct contact information. Thank you.

As you know SERC is hosting IC convention. I hope everyone will be there and ready to make this a wonderful convention. I will see you in Cary.

Dawn
SERC President



Above - Celeste and I
Florida's 60's Welcome Party

Left – 2025-2026 Florida State Council



May Newsletter Article

As we approach the IC Convention, I'll make the pitch to donate to the Disaster Fund.

Last year, we experienced several hurricanes which affected several of our ESA sisters along with others with medical issues. The disaster fund paid out 19 claims totaling more than \$150,000. This number is larger than the disaster monies we brought in. I encourage your states to do a fundraiser for the ESA Disaster Fund. It isn't important until you need it - just ask someone that has been a recipient of the disaster fund monies.

One of the most rewarding tasks on the SERC Executive Board is the task of representing SERC at a state convention. I just got back from a lovely weekend at the Virginia state convention. It shouldn't amaze me, but it does – ESA knows how to raise monies, ESA knows how to be creative, ESA knows how to show love, ESA knows how to celebrate, and ESA knows how to have fun! Virginia knocked it out of the park!

I look forward to welcoming you to my home state and city, Cary, North Carolina in the month of July. I live a short 2 miles from the convention hotel – reach out for directions, airport information, and restaurant suggestions. I'm happy to help!

Laura
SERC Past President and Disaster Chair



Left-VA State Council 2025-26

I had the privilege to travel to BOTH Kentucky & Tennessee for their State Conventions as their SERC representative. I ate the most amazing meals and was so welcomed by both State Councils. I was truly impressed by the service hours and philanthropic monies that these states achieved and I am looking forward to what the States will accomplish in the next year and seeing everyone again at the IC Convention and the SERC Conference. I hope everyone is planning to attend both!

I was so blessed to receive so many nominations and willingness to serve forms! Thank you to everyone for the overwhelming response and support. Me and the Nominations committee are working on reviewing everything.

Many thanks for all you do everyday to make the world a better place!

Laurn Ryan - 1st VP

Thank you

~ Lauren G E Ryan ~



Above-Kentucky

Right-Tennessee



Wow, I was very busy in May but I had a great time. First, I went to Conway, Arkansas. On Friday afternoon we went to Toad Suck Days and bought great crafts and a few gifts. That night we played Bingo and it was very competitive. On Saturday we took care of business and installed the new officers and President Anna Oberste theme is What is your ESA?

Then in I headed to Carrboro, North Carolina for some great music and great food. On Friday evening we went to listen to the Freight Train Blues Fest. They had food trucks and of course I got some great butter pecan ice cream. On Saturday we took a break during the general meeting to head over to the famers market. It was directly across the street from our meeting room I learned how to put my bike on and off the city bus rack. On Saturday they also reinstalled officers with Eve Greene as President.

And just in case you don't know we will all be in North Carolina in a short month for IC. I cannot wait to see you all there.

Kelli



Above-Arkansas
Below-North Carolina



Happy June all! It finally feels like summer here in Nashville. I had the pleasure of attending the Louisiana state convention last weekend right outside New Orleans.....talk about HOT! All jokes aside, I had a wonderful time seeing old friends and meeting so many more.....and enjoying some great bayou food! Congrats to Nancy Darland and her new board. I know they will do a great job.

I mentioned it before, but I am so grateful to everyone that ensured ALL state dues were paid on time! We have also received several chapter donations but are still accepting those! Look forward to seeing many of you in Cary, NC next month! Stay cool and

have a wonderful summer.

Jennifer Gailey, Treasurer





Louisiana 2025-26 Board



Summer 2025

From Casey Hoffman, SERC Corresponding Secretary

I was lucky enough to be assigned as the SERC Visiting Representative to the South Carolina State Convention! Southern hospitality at its best. The weekend kicked off with a fun and hilarious murder mystery party. I am a murder mystery fanatic and I was so far off on choosing the murderer! My sleuthing skills are obviously not the best. Saturday was a wonderful day of celebration. Celebrating good works, good friends, and good times. We ended the convention with a 50's sock hop party. Good music, good food, another good time. If you get the chance to attend the South Carolina convention, just do it – you won't regret it.

As we head into summer, stay safe and well. I hope to see you all in Cary, North Carolina for the IC convention. SERC is hosting so we will have lots to do! I also hope to see you in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for our SERC annual convention.

Till we meet again,

Love in ESA,

Casey



South Carolina



My trip to the Georgia State Council Annual Convention in May was wonderful. It was held at the Amicalola Falls State Park. The park was north of Atlanta and the road to get there took me through some of the prettiest countryside. The park is the start of the Appalachian Trail, an over 2,000 mile hiking trail that ends in the mountains of Maine. As I arrived, I found the most beautiful water falls. I listened to the water roar over the rocks, it felt like I was in a trance. I made a memory that day.

On Friday, I found my way to the Lodge and the party begin with the Gavelette's Luncheon. Everyone was so nice to me and made me feel right at home. There was a President's reception and a mixer/dinner Friday afternoon/evening. The theme was Hats off to Georgia ESA. It was quite an array of beautiful and colorful displays of head wear. It was so much fun to admire all of the hats.

Saturday, we had the first general assembly with a flag ceremony. The meeting was very well done, following all of the protocols required. There was not a dull moment during the meeting - lots of information, comments and thoughts were shared. Saturday night was the installation, which so moving as Ruth Ann Edge took the gavel from Susan Knudsen. Sunday, we had the second general assembly and closed the convention. It was a sad time as we said our good bye's, however I enjoyed getting all the Georgia State hugs.

I want to extend a big congratulations to both the outgoing President, "Susan Knudsen" and the incoming President, "Ruthann Edge." Both of these women, along with the entire Georgia State Council, were so kind, warm and welcoming to both myself and Betty Keeton, IC Representative. I wish them the very best and hope to see them again.

As I close, remember Ruthann's theme, "Spread your Wings and Fly!"

Sandra



Georgia 2025-26 Board

SERC Parliamentarian Report for

I loved going to the Alabama State Convention representing SERC. I went a day early so that I did not have to leave so early Friday morning for the meetings. I stayed the night with a wonderful friend thru ESA, Betty Keeton. She invited me into her home with such graciousness.

The convention was so much fun and informative. It was in an old church converted into an event center. The food was delicious, and the company was awesome. I met up with some old acquaintances and met some great new ESA members.

The installation was awesome. Beth Thompson was installed, and she painted the backdrop herself. I know that Beth will be a great president. JoAnn Perry did a great job of conducting the meetings and I wish her good luck in her next adventures in ESA.

I got to meet up with another Anita, Anita Crittenden.

As SERC Parliamentarian, I did announce that if anyone sees that SERC Bylaws needs a change, to please send it to me by June 1st . As a representative of SERC, I encouraged the members to consider either running of an office in the SERC or willing to serve on the appointed board. I had forms for either.

I am now going to my home state's convention, Louisiana, in June and hope to see the IC representative and Jennifer Gailey, the SERC representative. We are going to have a good time down on the bayou.

Anita

Alabama 2025-26 Board





Greetings SERC Family,

I am honored to serve as your Awards Chair this year!! I know that we are only a few months into our SERC year, but I wanted to reach out and let you know that I am available if you have any questions about Awards. I am sure everyone is keeping up with their good works and writing down everything that you do in the name of ESA. Be sure to note your time, mileage, money, and value of items donated and get that information to your State's Awards Chair by your State's designated deadline. The time period for SERC awards is June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025. So, to all the State Award Chairs, I look forward to receiving reports from each State. We still have a while as the deadline is September 1, 2025. So, again, if anyone has questions, please feel free to reach out to me. My information is located on the Awards form on the SERC website.

Many thanks!

Susan Garner
SERC Awards Chair 2024-2025

Did you know some of the most impressive aspects of Easterseals is the breadth of its services. From early intervention programs for young children to employment support for adults, Easterseals provides resources tailored to every stage of life. Key areas of focus include:

- **Therapy Services:** Physical, occupational, and speech therapies designed to help individuals develop independence and overcome challenges.
- **Inclusive Education:** Programs that support children in gaining access to quality education in inclusive settings.
- **Workforce Development:** Job training and employment services that empower individuals with disabilities to find meaningful work.
- **Assistive Technology:** Cutting-edge tools and devices that enable greater mobility, communication, and independence.
- **Support for Caregivers:** Resources and respite care to help families navigate the challenges of caregiving.

Thank you to all that contribute to Easterseals.

Joy Lehnert
Easterseals Chair



Hey y'all-

Tennessee has been quiet for the past few weeks since we had convention in Pigeon Forge, well the Tennessee Council has been quiet- Tennessee as a state always has something going on especially in Pigeon Forge. Our convention was a blast and everyone who attended had a great time. We had good friends, good food, and good times. I loved getting to be the presiding officer during a year where many of Tennessee's members got to receive years of service recognition for their dedication to ESA. And I can't decide which was more touching- the past presidents hosting a reception for me and the president elect Jackie before our installation banquet or the thought and planning that was put into my induction into the past presidents (although anyone who saw it can say the induction was definitely crazier). I am very confident that my successor Jackie will do an amazing job as president for the state of Tennessee and I can't wait to see everyone in Cary next month for IC.

The southern states are full of talented artists and crafters so let your inspiration take over and create masterpieces to display for everyone to enjoy. Let's see what wins- the amazing art or the beach. The registration form for Association of the Arts is online for people to download to enter your creations.

Emmie



From the Desk of Mary P Smith
2025 IC Convention Committee
Hotel Contracts Committee Chair

Time is flying by so fast. The 2025 IC Convention is almost here. But, there is still time to register. Our hotel room block price is good until June 24th. Since SERC is hosting, we need to make a good showing!! Registration is really easy. Just go the ESA Website and choose IC Convention. There you will find all the information you need about convention. The registration forms, a Tentative Agenda, Tour information and much more. This year, we can pay using Zeffy which makes paying for convention a breeze. FYI: you do not have to pay a fee to Zeffy. You can choose to pay no fee or make a small donation for the service. There is also a link to our room block at the Embassy Suites. Remember, Embassy has a free breakfast and Happy Hour every day!! There will be a lot of information in your convention registration packet about places to go, activities to enjoy, and lots of good restaurants.

Now, I will put on my other hat. I hope all of you are making plans and marking your calendars for the 2025 SERC Conference. The South Carolina State Council will be our host and they are busy planning a fun time for all of us. The conference is at Myrtle Beach on October 24-26, 2025. We will be staying at the Landmark Resort. This is the only meeting we have for SERC and it is a time for renewing old friendships and making new friends. I want to challenge each of you to talk to members in your states and try to get at least one member, who has never been to SERC Conference, to join us at Myrtle Beach.

I hope you are having a good summer so far.

Looking forward to seeing you in Cary, NC for IC Convention!

Southern Serenade (convention theme),

Mary



2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
A Southern Serenade
July 13 – July 20, 2025
Embassy Suites by Hilton Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle
201 Harrison Oaks Blvd., Cary, NC 27513
Embassy Suites at: (919) 677-1840



MEMBER NAME _____ MEMBER NUMBER/STATE _____ / _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
CELL # _____ EMAIL _____
CHAPTER NAME _____ CHAPTER # _____ STATE COUNCIL _____
DATE OF ARRIVAL _____ TIME OF ARRIVAL _____ FLY DRIVE USING SCOOTER Y N
DO YOU NEED A NAME BADGE HOLDER? Y N
ROOMMATE(S) _____

Each registered guest will receive an email confirmation after form and payment has been received

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- ☐ First IC Convention ☐ Pledge ☐ ELAN ☐ Collegiate Member – Campus _____ ☐ HQ Staff
ESA Foundation Board IC Elected/Appointed Board ☐ Past IC President (year) _____
2024-2025 State President – State _____ 2025-2026 State President – State _____
Previous State President - State(s)/Year(s) _____ Served with: _____
I will be recognized at convention for my years of ESA Service 25-80 years in 5-year increments: _____
Dietary Restrictions: The hotel will do its best to accommodate **DIETARY RESTRICTION requests only.**
Restriction or Allergy alert: _____ (Additional costs may apply)

CIRCLE AMOUNT

MEMBER FULL REGISTRATION FEE: Postmarked by May 1, 2025. \$275
Includes general assemblies, workshops, After May 1, 2025 (see payment note on page 2) \$325
welcome party, recognition luncheon and banquet
MEMBER FRI. & SAT. REGISTRATION FEE: Postmarked by May 1, 2024 \$250
Includes general assemblies, recognition After May 1, 2025 (see payment note on page 2) \$300
luncheon and banquet
MEMBER SAT. ONLY REGISTRATION FEE: Postmarked by May 1, 2025 \$150
Includes general assembly and banquet After May 1, 2025 (see payment note on page 2) \$200
MEMBER/NON-MEMBER WALK-IN REGISTRATION FEE:
Includes everything in full registration ☐ See payment note \$350
***PICPA STATE PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON (ADDITIONAL FEE)** \$45
(all past and present state presidents/IC presidents)

*If served with multiple IC presidents, indicate with whom you wish to sit? _____

SUBTOTAL MEMBER REGISTRATION: \$ _____

CONVENTION HOTEL ROOM RATES

Sinle/Double \$175 plus tax. Triple \$185 & Quad \$195 plus tax.

To receive the group rate, you MUST make reservations by June 23, 2025.

In House Reservations at (919) 677-1840; reference code: ESA

or click on the link: Hotel Reservation Link: www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/epsilonsigmaalphaconference/

Member Name and Number as listed on first page _____

MEMBER MAY NOT REGISTER AS NON-MEMBER FOR ANY EVENT

NON-MEMBER NAME _____

Please indicate if special guest of the following: ☐ ALSAC ☐ EASTERSEALS ☐ INCOMING IC PRESIDENT

☐ OTHER (Please specify) _____

	<u>CIRCLE AMOUNT</u>
NON-MEMBER FULL REGISTRATION FEE:	Postmarked by May 1, 2025\$275
Includes general assemblies, workshops, welcome party, recognition luncheon and banquet	After May 1, 2025 (see payment note below).....\$325
NON-MEMBER attending WELCOME PARTY:	Postmarked by May 1, 2025\$ 65
	After May 1, 2025 (see payment note below).....\$115
NON-MEMBER attending RECOGNITION LUNCHEON:	Postmarked by May 1, 2025\$50
	After May 1, 2025 (see payment note below).....\$100
NON-MEMBER attending BANQUET:	Postmarked by May 1, 2025\$75
	After May 1, 2025 (see payment note below).....\$125
YOUTH REGISTRATION FEE (age 12 & under):	Postmarked by May 1, 2025\$100
Includes general assemblies, welcome party, recognition luncheon and banquet	After May 1, 2025 (see payment note below).....\$125
YOUTH REGISTRATION FEE (age 13-17):	Postmarked May 1, 2025\$150
Includes general assemblies, welcome party, recognition luncheon and banquet	After May 1, 2025 (see payment note below).....\$175
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">***List dietary restrictions for non-members on page one, indicating who has the restriction.</div>	SUBTOTAL NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION: \$ _____
	ENTER TOTAL FROM FIRST PAGE: \$ _____
	TOTAL REGISTRATION: \$ _____

MEN'S GOLF . . . Indicate days you would like to play golf.

I wish to golf: ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

SELECT ONE PAYMENT TYPE

****PAYMENT NOTE:** Payment after May 1, 2025 must be paid by **MONEY ORDER, CERTIFIED CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD AND MAILED TO THE IC REGISTRATION CHAIR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2025.** After June 1, 2025, mail registration form only – **DO NOT SEND PAYMENT.** Email the registration chair that the form has been mailed and bring a copy of the registration form with money order, certified check, cash or credit card to the IC Convention.

Check Money Order PayPal (ESA IC Convention -- A fee of 4% of the total transaction amt. will be assessed.)
Make Check or Money Order payable to: ESA IC 2025 Convention (A \$45 fee will be assessed for any returned check.)

Zeffy Registration has been added for Credit Card Payment, it is on the ESA Website.
www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org under IC Convention

If you CANNOT use Zeffy for some reason and need to pay by credit card contact Denise Holdaway
870-838-6916

CANCELLATION: If you find it necessary to cancel this registration, the full amount less a \$50 processing fee will be refunded when WRITTEN cancellation is postmarked NO LATER THAN **JUNE 15, 2025.** NO REFUNDS AFTER **JUNE 15; TRANSFER ONLY.**

TRANSFER TO ANOTHER MEMBER: One time transfer allowed, \$15 transfer fee. See separate form.

Mail registration form with payment to:

Online Registration form can be
found at
www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org

**Casey Hoffman & Dawn Middleton
ESA IC Registration Chairs**

830 North Street, McComb, MS, 39648
Questions? Call Casey @601-551-9525 or Dawn @601-810-6508



SERC CONFERENCE 2025
"Celebrate ESA Under the Carolina Moon"
Myrtle Beach, SC
October 24-25, 2025

State Council

Last name (Please print)

First name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email

Mark All That Apply:

- | | | |
|--|----------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Member Registration (through 10/1/25) | \$155.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Member Registration (after 10/1/25) | \$165.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Non-Member Registration (through 10/1/25) | \$155.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Non-Member Registration (through 10/1/25) | \$165.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Guest Registration (through 10/1/25)
(Includes Fri Night Mixer and Banquet) | \$130.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Guest Registration (after 10/1/25) | \$140.00 | _____ |

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Guest Full Name: _____

Medical Dietary Requirements: _____

Check all that apply:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SERC Elected Board | <input type="checkbox"/> IC Elected Board | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member (pledge) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SERC Appointed Board | <input type="checkbox"/> IC Appointed Board | <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SERCHETTE | <input type="checkbox"/> PICPA | <input type="checkbox"/> Headquarters Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STATE President | <input type="checkbox"/> ESA Foundation Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify |

Make Checks Payable to:
Epsilon Sigma Alpha

Mail Registration and Check to:
Sondra Kucklick, 117 Messina Street
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
843-834-1228 jefsan123@gmail.com

Hotel: Landmark Resort
Room Rates: \$75-\$130/night
2 night minimum
Phone: 855-338-0226
\$15 resort fee
13% SC state tax

1501 S Ocean Blvd
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Group Name: ESA- SERC 2025
Group Code:
Cut off Date for Room rate 09/24/2025



2025 SERC ASSOCIATION OF THE ARTS ENTRY FORM

Artist's Name: _____

Address: _____

Chapter Name & Number: _____ State Council: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Each artist is limited to **one (1)** entry for each Division. Check the box below for each Division you wish to enter.

DIVISION I – PAINTING – # of entries A. Oils ____ B. Acrylics ____ C. Watercolors ____
DIVISION II – LITERATURE – # of entries Poetry/Short Story/Humorous Essay – 500 words or less (judged on content originality, form and expression). All literary entries must be typed in double spaces on 8 1/2 x 11 paper.
DIVISION III – FIBERS – # of entries A. Quilting ____ B. Crewel/Embroidery ____ C. Counted Cross Stitch ____ D. Knitting ____ E. Needlepoint ____ F. Crocheting ____
DIVISION IV – VISUAL ART – # of entries Photography – Black and white or color (mounted or framed for display).
DIVISION V – PAINTED ART – # of entries A. Pottery ____ B. Ceramics ____ C. Porcelain ____ D. China Painting ____
DIVISION VI – HOLIDAY ART – # of entries A. Christmas Ornaments (all types) ____ B. Decorations ____
DIVISION VII – WEARABLE ART – # of entries A. Sewing ____ B. Fabric Painting ____ C. Jewelry ____
DIVISION VIII – MIXED MEDIA – # of entries A. Stamp Art ____ B. Decoupage ____ C. Glass ____ D. Wood ____ E. Other ____

NOTE: When applicable, please give background information and/or techniques used to create work of art on index card.

Check-in will be **FRIDAY, October 24, 2025**. Time and location will be printed in the Conference Program.

Completed form must be postmarked or emailed by September 26, 2025, and sent to the following:

Emmie Owens, SERC Association of the Arts Chair
325 Seehorn Drive, Newport, TN 37821
(423) 237-8937 ~ emmieowens85@gmail.com