

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COUNCIL OF ESA
ESA Fall Council Minutes
Elk Point, SD
September 29, 2012

The annual Fall Council meeting of the South Dakota State Council of ESA was called to order by President Earleen Varns at 9:30 am on September 29, 2012.

Words of inspiration were offered by Chaplain Pat Woolley. The members were asked to stand during the opening ritual, pledge of allegiance and the tribute to the ESA flag by Amber Heinert, President-Elect.

Fall Council Chair Donna Breed welcomed members and guests to the fall meeting hosted by Beta Eta, Elk Point, *ESA...The Friendship Garden*. She urged us to think of one way to make our day happier and to write that thought on a slip of paper. Later in the meeting these would be read and door prizes awarded. She encouraged all to read the book THE HAPPINESS PROJECT.

President Earleen Varns requested that all sign the routed roll call with name and chapter. Forty-three members were recorded.

Recording Secretary Pro Tem, Marsha Risseeuw, Alpha Phi, Winner, moved to accept the minutes of the 2012 State Convention as delivered to all via email. Emmy Neustrom, Alpha Sigma, Sioux Falls, seconded the motion. Following a correction that was approved, the minutes were accepted. (*Addition to the minutes: Alpha Chi Annual Philanthropic report: total hours: 550; cash monies \$9,207 and donated goods: \$1,981 with 1851 miles*) President Earleen Varns announced the Minute Review committee for Fall Council: DJ Smith, Chi Omega; Jan Jones, Theta Omega; Shelley Huber, Beta Eta.

Treasurer's Report by Carrie Hock of Chi Omega, Black Hills Area: Checking Balance is \$3537.50 for 133 members. The form for submitting dues can be found on the State Council web site. Dues of \$22 per member are due no later than Dec. 1, 2012. Carrie Hock reminded all that early dues payment would be helpful to keep the budget flowing in a timely manner.

President Elect/Membership by Amber Heinert of distributed a folder of information to help each chapter in their rush efforts. She stressed the need for each member and chapter to reach out and to help ESA South Dakota grow. She has offered an incentive of \$100 to be donated to a charity of choice by the chapter that has the largest membership growth. President Earleen Varns also urged a continued effort to grow our membership. She shared a Choctober idea that was used in her chapter that supports efforts on the IC level. Each chapter was given a sweet "gift" and the challenge to help ESA grow.

Parliamentarian/Standing Rule proposals were put into motion for Parliamentarian Sheba Schlaikjer, Alpha Chi, Dell Rapids, by Marsha Risseeuw, Alpha Phi, Winner; second by Kay Nordlie of Alpha Alpha, Sioux Falls. This will allow the opportunity to support a funding source for sisters who wish to seek higher office through MARC. At this time, President Earleen Varns displayed her fund raising project, a unique garden decoration. Chances were sold with ½ for the campaign fund and ½ for the ESA treasury (Hope for Hero mailing project).

Disaster Fund, Betsy Simons, Alpha Lambda, Vermillion, for Jr. Past President, Carol King, distributed information and urged the use of the web for supporting the Disaster Fund.

APPOINTED BOARD OFFICER REPORTS

ESA for St. Jude, Barb Campbell, Theta Omega, Vermillion, reported for Janice Kitzler. This sorority year South Dakota donated \$10,500.54 to St. Jude. She urged the use of the web for projects and for information. On November 2nd a special party will be held at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital commemorating the 40 year partnership of ESA and St. Jude. There is a special 40 year pin available. A wonderful fund raising video is available on the web.

2013 State Convention, Marsha Risseeuw, Convention Co-chairman, Alpha Phi, Winner, issued an invitation for State Convention the first week end in May in Winner. Invitations were delivered to each chapter.

ESA Foundation: Shelley Huber, Vice Chairman/State Counselor Chairman of the ESA Foundation Board of Directors, in the absence of ESAF State Counselor, Trudy Zalud, told those in attendance that the new scholarship application website process will launch on October 1, 2012. She invited all to join the Foundation, and reminded us that annual dues are due now. It was noted that three South Dakota students received scholarships this year.

Historian/Scrapbook: Chairman Sally Schmitz, Theta Omega, Vermillion, explained that the Facebook and web pages will become the scrapbook as these are a true history of the year's activities. With this in mind, she urged all of the chapters to communicate with activities, events, etc. so that President Earleen Varns will have these memories.

Philanthropic: Chairman Betsy Simons, Alpha Lambda, Vermillion, shared a number of chapter reports detailing the many acts of kindness and support throughout the state. Her report was very inspiring and has been filed with the President with the intent to share on Facebook. Also, a huge outpouring of items were received at this Fall Council gathering to be used for domestic violence centers. Sandie Sullivan was in charge of coordinating these efforts. This project was in support of IC President Suzy Winter's special project for 2012-2013.

State Project, Children's Home Society/Chairman Jan Gregory, Alpha Lambda, Vermillion: Information on this can be found on the web.

Hope for Heroes/Amber Heinert, Chi Omega, Black Hills Area, for Chairman Lori Vosika, Iota Pi, : A handout detailing the many ways that the chapters can be involved with this deserving project was distributed. There is great need on both the domestic as well as the foreign fields. Several chapter members indicated they have collected cards and will be mailing to those in the military.

Distinguished Achievement Award /Awards Chairman Ruth Creasey, Alpha Sigma, Sioux Falls, noted the change in this project. The Diana and the Zeus Awards have been combined with a new title which will allow a more realistic picture of ESA and of those individuals in communities who will be honored. This information is on the web, www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org.

Easter Seals/Amber Heinert for Chairman, Misty Winters, Chi Omega, Black Hills Area : Information was shared on this project and the fact that South Dakota does not have a local office or representative; however, the need is great for support of the Easter Seals goals. All were reminded that it is a commitment of ESA on the international level and that we should support in any way that we can. More information is available from the committee; contact them.

SPEAKER FOR THE DAY

President Earlene Varns introduced the speaker for the day, our very own Amber Heinert. Amber is a Major in the South Dakota National Guard. Her message was three fold:

1. To share her experience of deployment to Afghanistan on a professional, and a personal level
2. To share the value and importance of the Hope for Heroes project which she said was so well received and so needed by the military who serve on many fronts
3. To share her decision to fly the US flag in honor of ESA; St. Jude, and the many volunteers who do so much to help those in need.

Amber's power point and comments reflected her pride in serving her country and her desire to carry out the ideals of ESA. **FYI:** Much of this same presentation was part of the IC international Convention of 2012 and was organized and delivered by Past IC President Barb Campbell. ESAMC Executive Director, BJ Clark, commented on the tremendous impact this had on the members and the St. Jude representatives.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating/Chairman Paula Verzani, Theta Omega, Vermillion: Encouragement was given for members to step forward and share their leadership skills to help South Dakota move forward. There is a need for all to consider taking an office. Kay Rasmussen of Alpha Lambda has accepted the position of recording secretary.

Website/Donna Breed, Beta Eta, Elk Point/ Sheba Schlaikjer, Alpha Chi, Dell Rapids: Donna reported that much work has been done to update the site. Those in attendance were told to encourage their chapters to accept the

responsibility to submit updates and to help keep the calendar up to date. Contact either Sheba Schlaikjer at sschlaikjer@gmail.com or Donna Breed at dbreed@iw.net.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Reorganization/Restructure Committee/Paula Verzani: A list of concerns and possible solutions were discussed. This committee will continue to work on ways to improve the effectiveness of the State Council.

Motion: Paula Verzani, Theta Omega, Vermillion, moved to increase the monetary award amount of the Youth Award from \$100 to \$125.

Second -Maureen Baker, Alpha Phi, Winner

Motion Carried.

Long Range/Rotational Plan/Paula Verzani: The proposed plan was brought before the group.

Motion: Paula Verzani, Theta Omega, Vermillion, moved to remove the scrapbook from the rotation of duties on the state level, and return it to the Chapter of the State President.

Second: Betsy Simons, Alpha Lambda, Vermillion

Motion Carried.

Think Recycle/Paula Verzani talked about a possible RECYCLE option for cell phones, cartridges, etc. More on this will be offered later.

Paula discussed a number of other ideas, asked what attendees thought about these concerns and asked for chapter assistance in trying to develop solutions.

NEW BUSINESS

MARC/SD MARC Representative, Corinne Milburn, Beta Eta, Elk Point, invited all to participate in the honor guard for Emmy Neustrom's installation as MARC President on October the 14th in Kansas City, MO. A "Thank You" was given by several, for the wonderful items that will go into the MARC basket to be auctioned off at the event. A silver hat was passed to collect extra funds to help cover installation expenses. The fact that tickets are available for the MARC Ways and Means Project, *Show Me the Money*, was announced.

Clarification from the Procedural Manual Report:

Change in name of the Diana/Zeus Awards to DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.

Change of Name: Circle of Life renamed ESA for St. Jude

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

1. Patty Rarick, Theta Omega, Vermillion, talked about the first State ESA float which will be in the Dakota Days Parade. This is the 150th Dakota Days Parade and provides a great opportunity for ESA to be recognized. Several chapters have been able to help with this.
2. October is "Choctober" recruitment month---we must grow as an organization or face the consequences.
3. IC Chapter and State Council Dues are payable now.
4. Members were invited to participate in the Komen Race in Sioux Falls and to walk in support of Gayle Bliss, ESA sister who is in a battle with breast cancer. This was held September 30th, 2012.
5. The winner of the raffle to provide financial assistance to the incoming MARC President, Emmy Neustrom, and for the Hope For Heroes mailing project was announced and the garden decoration donated by President Earleen Varns was awarded.

Pat Woolley, Alpha Phi gave closing remarks.

Everyone was invited to stay to make BOO-BOO Bunnies.

There was a motion to adjourn by Maureen Baker, Alpha Phi, Winner and a second by Rose Zediker of Theta Omega, Vermillion. The meeting was adjourned, and the Closing Ritual was recited.

Marsha Risseuw

ESA State Council Recording Secretary, Pro Tem