

**ECHOES**

**DECEMBER 2018**

## **A Message from Our President...**

First of all I want to thank Tarah Eliason for all of the leg work that she did on the MARC Conference, Luann Ouellette for helping keep the money straight and Barb Campbell for helping keep the registrations straight. A big thank you to all of you who participated behind the scenes before the event and after, your thoughts, ideas and time spent on this event was invaluable. Tamara Dahlvang and Ashley Augspurger did a great job on the State Marketplace table. We overestimated the popularity of that but were able to return things. Total profit I believe was \$288. Also a huge thank you to Tamara and Ashley for helping us pull off some last minute things at the event. Those of you who were able to attend I hope you had an opportunity to meet some of the other ESA members from our region and connect with them.

It's exciting to share how the MARC conference impacted our state as well. First of all by just enjoying the first evening there with a great massage our guests gave \$265 for the St Francis House, the Sioux Falls local transitional housing project for homeless. The Hope For Heroes project gave a suburban FULL of Christmas Gifts for Veterans to "shop" (at no cost) for their families this Christmas along with \$500 in cash and gift cards, to help the American Legion Auxiliary ship the gifts for them as well. Carol King took home the balls of "plarn" to put together a sleeping mat for a homeless person in the community and many people are working on plarn in their communities as well. The several thousand bags that Ron High Rock collected were donated to the St Francis House as well. They were thrilled to get them. It was a blessing to host MARC in South Dakota. Start planning for the year 2030!

Now let's TACO'BOUT ESA. We all know that our state numbers have gone down this year. I think we are all proud of our organization and all of us have our own "why" to ESA. I hope that your "why" is enough of an encouragement to want to share ESA with others. ESA International has put together a plan including, invite info, recipes, trivia games and information to host your own TACO'BOUT ESA event. I would love to help every chapter host an event in 2019.

Check out the event information at <https://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/tacoparty>. If you are willing to invite your friends and/or family and community members I will come and help you host this event in every way I can. If you have other ideas bring it on. I'm up for a challenge, let's work together and BUILD ESA in 2019!

I hope you all have the opportunity to spend time with family, friends and your ESA family over the holidays and enjoy the blessings of one another!

Looking forward to 2019!

Merry Christmas and God Bless you all this season!

***Kim Berven***

## **Chapter News...**

### ***Alpha Alpha***

As I type this, it is only a couple days until Thanksgiving, and so begins the holiday season!

It has been a busy last few months for our chapter. As can be expected, some time was spent on planning for Fall Council which we hosted this year on 09/15 at the Pizza Ranch on E. 10<sup>th</sup> St in Sioux Falls. Because of the timing of the meeting, there was coffee, juice, breakfast pizza, and coffee cake for brunch. It was a very productive meeting, and afterwards members were able to have lunch as well.

In October we held a fundraiser at the Pizza Ranch in Brandon. We do these several times a year and are thinking about adding another one. This is such an easy way to raise monies for our chapter. We attended MARC which was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sioux Falls. The speakers on Friday were wonderful, making us think and making us laugh. We even learned how to make mats from plastic bags! Of course there has to be a business meeting. Especially meaningful was remembering those who had passed in the last year. The conference ended with a wonderful banquet.

We had a Choctober event complete with brownies, hot chocolate, and chocolate candies. We were pleased with the response with 2 prospective members. Gifts were tealight candles with holders.

Ending the month as we have in the past we filled Halloween candy bags which were distributed between Children's Home Society and Children's Inn.

Unfortunately we did not have our Fall Bazaar this year due to problems securing a venue. Rethinking if this is something we want to continue doing.

On 12/01 we will be at the Empire Mall from 5 to 7 p.m. wrapping presents to benefits Children's Inn. President Kim will be joining us. Stop on by and say hi and let us make your holiday season a little less hectic. We will be having a Christmas social, date still to be determined, as well as a gift exchange, which is always a great way to celebrate the season.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the coming year!

***Janice Hight, Co-President***

## **Alpha Lambda**

Alpha Lambda members honored LuAnn for her 50 years of ESA at our February social meeting. In March Shari hosted a wine and cheese and pizza party at her home. The Philanthropic committee reported a total of \$3880 monetary donations and \$1046 value of donated goods by members this year. In April we met at The Old Lumber Company hosted by Samantha. The Budget was tabled until after convention, when we will better know needs for the year. It was announced that the ESA Convention would be in Vermillion at the Kozak room of the Vermillion Public Library on May 5, a one day meeting with a BBQ supper. In June LuAnn hosted us at her home where we celebrated Alpha Lambda's 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday with

cake. The chapter was founded in June of 1946. It was voted to donate \$100 each to Vermillion Library, Evan's Diaper Project, Jolley School, Austin School, and St Agnes School, Domestic Violence /SOS program, Food Pantry, Tanager Take-out food program and the Backpack program. We voted to have 5 official meetings of March, June, September, November and January. Other social meetings and coffees will continue as announced. In August Mariana hosted at Toby's Chicken in Meckling. we were encouraged to attend September Fall Council and October MARC meetings in Sioux Falls. We voted to give money to help with MARC expenses. The September meeting was hosted by Sharon K. and Sharon D. We decided to bring donations for DV/SOS to our next meeting. The October meeting was cancelled due to conflicting dates and MARC meeting in Sioux Falls. In November we met at Maxine's home with pumpkin dessert made by Thelma . We heard Carol's report on the excellent MARC meeting, speakers and plastic mats project. At the December 7<sup>th</sup> Dine-out at the Eagles, we are encouraged to bring stuffed teddy bears for First Responders to give to children, and small gifts for DV/SOS clients' children to give to their Moms. We will be meeting to decorate a Christmas tree for the W.H. Over Museum on November 28.

***Sharon Donahoe, Secretary***

## Alpha Sigma

First of all I'd like to express our condolences to Alpha Sigma chapter member, Corrine Larson. Her husband, Lavern Larson passed away on October 10, 2018. He was 90 years old. He was a good man and surely will be missed. Sympathy cards may be sent to Corrine Larson at 1400 Roland Dr., Mitchell, SD 57301.

It's Alpha Sigma's birthday. "70" years old This chapter was chartered November 17, 1948, so "Happy Birthday" Alpha Sigma. Amazing, and we're still hanging in there.

Ruth and I began the year attending Fall Council the end of September. Afterwards, we met socially and had lunch with Sandie Sullivan and Luann Ouellette. We had fun playing catch-up with conversation. We don't get to see other ESA members often, so it was great being together.

In October, Ruth and I went to the MARC Conference at the Hilton Garden Inn, which was hosted by the South Dakota State Council October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a fun time, good speakers, good food, and the highlight was seeing old friends, and making new acquaintances, as well.

Ruth traveled after the MARC Conference with her daughter, Kathy the end of October. They went on a cruise from Seattle, WA. Ruth enjoyed Chihuly Garden, a stop in Astoria, OR, then San Francisco, and onto Victoria British Columbia. There they saw and enjoyed the wonderful Burchard Gardens.

I went to Weatherford, TX in November to see a friend that I've known for over 55 years. We went to grade school and high school together. Sandy took me to see the Parker county Courthouse museum, Clark Gardens Botanical Park, a 35 acre oasis. Also, we went to the Parker County museum. We drove by the home of Mary Martin, Peter Pan actress, where she raised her son Larry Martin Hagman. He was J R Ewing in "Dallas", and was in the series of "I Dream of Jeannie".

Our chapter is hosting State Convention 2019 and will have details in the Spring issue of the ECHOES. Until then, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and we hope the New Year brings all of you many blessings.

## Beta Alpha

Fall is here and colder days are upon us. Beta Alpha just completed their biggest project of the year – the annual Show and Sell on November 17. The Show and Sell raise funds for all of our philanthropic activities for the coming year. We had another successful show with 40 vendors selling items from homemade goodies, clothing, Jewelry, accessories, wooden craft item and much more. Beta Alpha members were busy with raising money at our silent auction tables for St. Jude's and keeping the concession stand serving many wonderful food items including Indian tacos, loaded baked potatoes and homemade pies and bars.

We will settle into the holidays with family activities and a Christmas party. We had so much fun bowling last year that we are going to go bowling again. Beta Alpha looks forward to helping Alpha Phi with their Tour of Tables on February 9. Wishing everyone the very best holiday season.





## Theta Omega

THE GIVING TREE continues to bring smiles to youth and families at Christmas. For over 30 years this community project has provided gifts to Clay County area youth, ages 0-18, from low income families. In 2017, the lives of 291 youth were provided with gifts for Christmas due to the big hearts and generosity of our community. This is a year over year increase of 20%!

There are eleven trees located in the Vermillion area including: Ace Hardware (Vermillion), Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Davis Pharmacy, Hy-Vee, Knutson Family Dentistry, Little Italy's, Sanford Hospital, The Bean, Vermillion Public Library, Wal-Mart and Whimps. Each tree is decorated with tags listing items the child needs and wants for Christmas. Tags are selected, gifts purchased and returned, unwrapped with tag(s) attached, to any of the businesses listed above. Theta Omega members distribute gifts mid-December to families.

We also have *many* generous businesses and groups that participate by making financial donations or obtaining tags. Each tree also has donation envelopes for those who prefer to financially support but not purchase gifts. Theta Omega shoppers using this money shop for any tags that were not taken from the trees.

The Theta Omega Chapter of ESA, in conjunction with the Salvation Army, would like to thank in advance all area organizations and individuals who generously support this very special Christmas project. We are looking forward to another year of our community generosity in making our youth and families smile.

## **Association of the Arts**

Some people say there is no such thing as coincidence, but I'm not so sure about that after my experience today. This afternoon I was casting about for an idea of what to write for the winter ECHOES to promote the Association of the Arts for convention next spring. Since the last few days have been really cold, I have been thinking about getting out my knitting as cold weather is especially conducive to working on knitting projects.....for that matter on all kinds of stitchery projects and other indoor handwork. And then earlier this evening snatched a minute to read the next chapter in Amanda Lee's Thread on Arrival. The main character is the owner of an embroidery shop called The Seven-Year Stitch. And I read, "Sporadic business was often par for the course on sunny days. People preferred to be out enjoying the weather. They were more likely to come into the shop to stock up on supplies when it was cold and/or rainy and they were preparing to settle in at home and work on their needlecrafts for a few days."

So, there you have it. Get settled in your favorite chair, perhaps in your jammies and a mug of hot chocolate, and get busy on those needlework projects so you can display them at convention in May!

(Of course, when the weather is nicer or at least more conducive to being outside to enjoy Mother Nature, take that camera/iPhone with you and capture some of the beauty around you so you can bring your photos to convention. Or maybe your talents are more in the area of wood crafting, flower arranging or something else; plan now to get a start on your projects. Your South Dakota ESA sisters and brothers would love to see the results of your creativity, come springtime.

***Barb Campbell, Chair***