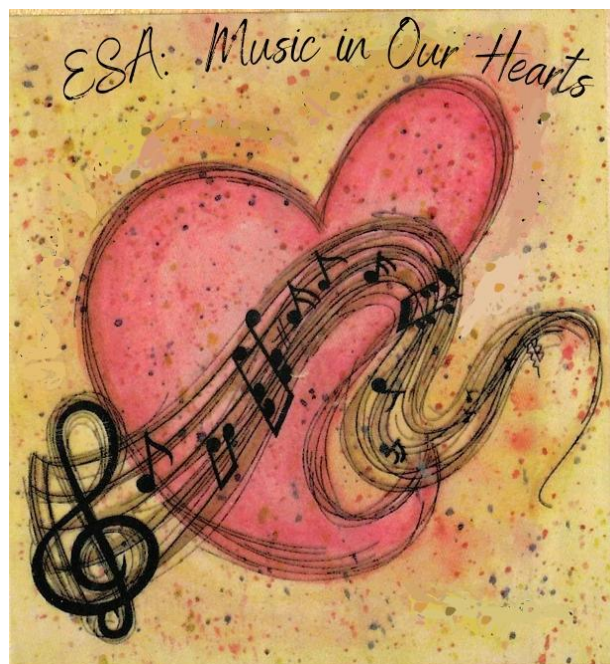




Southeast Regional Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha

September 2025

Newsletter



Hello Everyone,

I hope you have recovered from IC. It took me a few days after I got home but it is always wonderful to see people, share ideas and learn. SERC received many compliments. Cheers to all for a great conference!

As for retirement, I haven't found my rhythm. Football season will be cranking up so that will help. Other than that, just catching up on shows, books and crafts (not cleaning...haha).

The SERC conference in Myrtle Beach is coming up and I am very excited. South Carolina has been working hard getting things ready and I hope to see you there!! Please read to the end of the newsletter for important information.

*Send updated rosters to Vicky Jones and I.

Dawn

Good morning,

It is a whirlwind of activity in our household! Luke just started middle school and Bailey is in 3rd grade. We have more sports teams than children and life continues to be full of adventures. The fall is quickly approaching and I am getting more and more excited for our SERC Conference.

I am pleased to present to you the 2025-2026 Slate of Candidates!

For the first time in several years, we have contested positions. I am so pleased to have received such amazing interest in serving this coming year.

Name	Position
Lauren Ryan	President
Kelli Thornberry	1st VP
Jennifer Gailey	2nd VP
Dawn Middleton	Past President
Susan Garner	Treasurer
Trish Villines	Treasurer
Jacqueline DuBose Anonie	Recording Secretary
Sandy Fletcher	Recording Secretary
Eve Greene Dudley	Corresponding Secretary
Sandra Edwards	Parliamentarian

Thank you
~ Lauren G E Ryan ~



Are we closer to Fall yet? It sure has been boiling here in North Carolina. As I write this, North Carolina braces for Hurricane Erin to send high winds and waves to the Outer Banks. Another natural disaster possibility, oh no!

As chair of the Disaster Fund, I ask your state to consider donating. We never know where Mother Nature will strike next. Remember, the disaster fund also helps in the need of medical emergencies.

I hope to see you all in Myrtle Beach for the SERC Convention. October at the beach sounds perfect to me!

Laura



Casey Hoffman

SERC Corresponding Secretary

Hello SERC!

Wow! We did a fabulous job hosting the 2025 Epsilon Sigma Alpha International annual conference!! Give yourselves a great pat on the back. Now that IC is in the books, it is time to turn our attention to our own SERC Conference. October 24- 25, 2025 will be here before you know it. Make plans to come to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina as we "Celebrate ESA Under the Carolina Moon". And celebrate we shall!

Did you know that Myrtle Beach proudly holds the title of Mini Golf Capital of the World? That's right! Myrtle Beach has more miniature golf courses per square mile than anyplace else in the world! The area is frequently known as the Golf Capital of the World!

I hope to see you in October – get ready to have some fun – and let me know if you need someone to play mini golf with.



SERC Conference will be in just a few months. I think SERC members should pat themselves on the back for such a great job on hosting the IC Convention. It was so good to see so many SERC members at the convention. WELL, DONE!!

We are ready to party and have a good time at Myrtle Beach with the South Carolina members on October 24-25th. Don't forget to send in your registration form by October first.

We do have some bylaws to vote on during the conference. I have sent a copy to the state presidents and the Serchettes. Discuss among your members and be ready to vote. I am including them in this publication.

Hope to see all soon in Myrtle Beach.

Anita Kav Hilburn. SERC Parliamentarian

***Note: Proposed bylaw revisions will be at the end of the newsletter.**

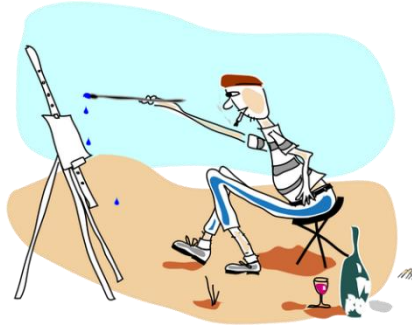
The SERC website is an excellent resource for members, and its website, <https://www.esa-serc.com/> is your one-stop shop for important information.

Whether you're looking for important documents or need details on upcoming events, the website provides everything you need to stay connected and informed. Here's what you can find:

- **Rosters:** Access contact information for the SERC and International Council (IC) Executive and Appointed Boards, as well as State Executive Boards.
- **Conference & Convention Information:** Find all the details you need for SERC Conferences and International Council Conventions.
- **News:** Read the latest newsletters and stay up to date with SERC
- The **SERC TORCH** publication has vital information for members.
- **Forms:** Download and print essential forms, including dues forms, elected office nomination forms, and "willing to serve" forms.
- **Official Documents:** Review important governance documents like the **SERC Bylaws & Standing Rules** and **SERC Executive Board Guidelines**.
- **Key Dates:** Stay on top of the schedule with a list of important dates for the council.

Some documents are password-protected. To access them, simply use the passcode: **SERC1234**.

If there is anything you would like to see added to the SERC website, contact Webmaster Vicky Jones at vickyjones325@bellsouth.net



I hope you all have had a great summer and those who went to IC- it was great to see you and catch up. I cannot wait to see everyone in Myrtle Beach this fall but more importantly I cannot wait to see what creativity there will be to display for the Association of the Arts. I hope that we have some beautiful artworks that will inspire each of us to embrace our inner artist so much that we cannot resist the urge to build sandcastles in the hopes that they be so magnificent as to be considered art themselves. I have included the entry form for the Association of the Arts for those who are interested in submitting a piece for SERC. It is also on the SERC website and can be either emailed to me at emmieowens85@gmail.com or it can come through the postal service to my address 325 Seehorn Drive, Newport TN 37821.

Emmie

[SERC Association of the Arts form](#)



Greetings SERC Family,

WOW, from the Award Reports that I have received so far, I am happy to say that our SERC States have been very busy with numerous philanthropic projects! If you haven't gotten your state's report to me, you still have time. The deadline is September 1st (either postmarked or sent to me by email). 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

[SERC Awards forms](#)





Hello SERC!

It's almost time for Fall and cooler weather, thank goodness! And that means it's getting closer to conference time! Can you believe it? It seems like we were just in Little Rock Shining Like Diamonds!

I just wanted to remind you that for our Finance Projects this year we will be hosting the ever-famous Purse Auction again! This seems to be an SERC favorite so please bring a purse, new or gently used, and you can fill it with gift cards, cash, jewelry, makeup, or any other kinds of appealing valuable items! We always have some amazing items so get your bidding paddles ready!

We will also be having a 50/50 raffle. Who doesn't love CASH?? Bring some cash, buy some tickets and you just might walk away with a bundle!

Remember, your generosity goes to help SERC's general fund and we appreciate everyone for everything you do to support ESA!

Can't wait to see you all in October!
Meghan Dougan
SERC Finance Chair



HOPE FOR HEROES

Here it is the first of Sept, and we have had so much hot weather. Our grass is dry and needs rain. I know that come Nov, Dec & Jan, we will be wishing for some of this weather; but, for now, it is just too hot!

In May, we took our family on a cruise along the Inland Passage of Alaska. We visited Sitka, Juneau, Icy Straits (Hoonah) Ketchikan and Victoria, Canada. The weather was great. We had many sunny days with periods of light sprinkles. In all, it was a great vacation.

Back to the Hope for Heroes. I received a note from Diana Makovitch, Hope for Heroes Chair for Florida, telling me what Florida does for Hope for Heroes. They are participating in the Coupons, Postage Stamps, Support a Troop and Honor Flights. They provide "Clean Up Kits" for the homeless Veterans, Provide mattress for the Veterans Home, Wreaths Across America, Folds of Honor and the Fisher House. Feel free to contact Diana Makovitch (webladylake@gmail.com) for further information. Kudos to Florida for all they do for the Veterans. Our chapter, Kappa Sigma in Arkansas, does the couponing and it is so easy.

Each year, Sondra Kucklick helps an organization (Towns for Troops) fill stockings for their military station in Charleston (Navy & Air Force). This event is for the 100 female soldiers. Items such as deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, and personal items are put in the socks. This sounds like an easy project that helps so many women in the military. Feel free to contact Sondra Kucklick (jefsan123@gmail.com) for more information.

Whatever you do for the Hope for Heroes is a plus. Just let us know. I know that Labor Day is just right around the corner, so let's share what your chapter/state is doing.

Theda Hall (tlhent@aol.com)
Hope for Heroes Chair
4400 Tahoe Circle Drive
Springdale, AR 72762



PACKING HINTS

1. Roll clothes and pack them first.

Rolling **saves space** and keeps clothes from wrinkling.

This simple packing hack will take up less space and allow you to **bring more clothes** on your trip.

To Roll your clothes, **start with the heavier items** such as jeans and sweaters. Then, fold each item **in half lengthwise** and roll from the bottom up. Once you've rolled all your clothes, compress them with delicate items like scarves or socks. With the method, you'll be able to **bring more clothes** and have **fewer wrinkles** in your outfits when you arrive at your destination.

2. Choose travel-friendly fabrics.

3. Pack the first outfit you'll wear on top.

4. Place heavy items at the base.

. Wear your bulkiest pair on the plane.

. Pack versatile shoes that match several outfits.

5. Layer plastic dry cleaning bags between clothes.

6. Use packing cubes.

7. Avoid over-or under packing.

8. Get an extra tote for souvenirs.

9. Take a mini-iron (Hotels usually have irons.)

10. Bring two small laundry bags.

11. Organize your liquid bags such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant.

12. Keep important medications in your purse.

13. Place small items inside Ziplock bags and place inside shoes.

14. Wrap shower caps around shoes to keep clothes clean. Shower caps can be found at Walmart

15. Wear Bulky Clothes to the Airport.



SERC Conference

SERC 2025

Myrtle Beach, SC

Welcome all to Myrtle Beach on October 24th and 25th for our SERC Conference! We're working hard to make sure everything is ready for everyone to have a great time!

Nice weather has been ordered and we've asked the ocean to be its bluest! Rooms are still available and you have until Sept. 24 to be assured of our special rates. Call The Landmark Resort at 855-338-0226, use ESA Convention 2025 to register.

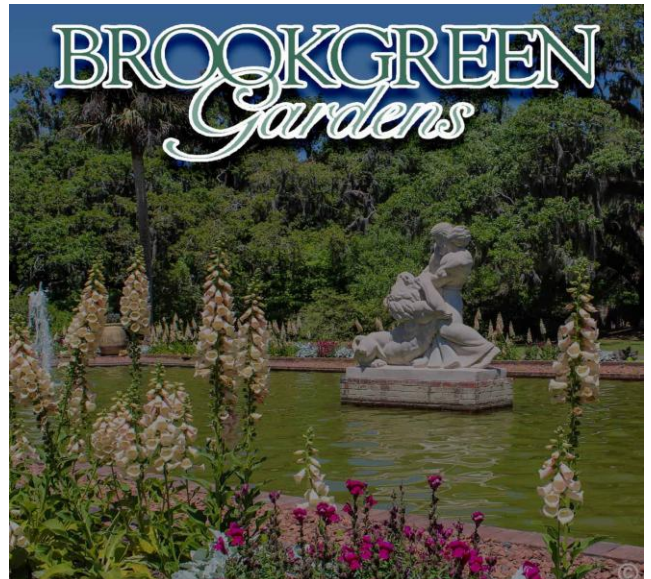
If you want to visit the world famous Brookgreen Gardens on Oct. 23, let Melissa know at MelissaGFinch78@gmail.com. We are trying to arrange enough transportation to get everyone there. Admission cost is \$22. 65 and over \$20. You can use the ticket for 7 days.

If you want to golf at Southcreek Course on Oct. 23, with tee times starting at 1pm, let Jackie know at 803-466-6686. Cost is \$80.

Be sure to check the webpage for a registration form and info on the outings.

We are really looking forward to having a wonderful conference "Under the Carolina Moon" See you there!

Vickie and Tywanda
Conference Co-Chairs



Florida State Council

Joy Lehnert, 2025-2026 Florida State President

SERC Conference 2026: Experience a Tropical State of Mind in Kissimmee, FL

Mark your calendars for October 23-24, 2026, because the SERC Conference is coming to Kissimmee, Florida! Hosted by the enthusiastic Florida State Council, next year's event welcomes participants from all SERC states to embrace a "Tropical State of Mind."

Attendees can enjoy comfortable accommodations at the special rate of \$109.00 per night, which covers up to two guests per room. Even better, the typical resort fee of \$28.00 per night has been waived, ensuring great value for your stay.

Each room booking includes breakfast for up to two people, so you can start your days energized and ready for the conference activities. Additionally, complimentary parking is available, making your experience as convenient as possible.

Join us in sunny Kissimmee for networking, learning, and a true taste of Florida hospitality! Registrations will be ready at the conference in Myrtle Beach!

SERC
2026

Kissimmee, FL





Ann Edge
Georgia State President

It seems like we were just at IC Convention in Cary, NC enjoying great workshops, informative meetings, good food and socializing. How did it get to be the middle of August already? Time sure flies by when you are busy hosting your Executive Board Retreat and getting ready for Leadership and the Fall Board Meeting.

Georgia's Executive Board met August 8 – 10 at Logan Martin Lake in Alabama. On Friday night after we all arrived at the lake we enjoyed a good meal together, and a lot of laughter and talking.

On Saturday morning we enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Recording Secretary Luanne Langmo and 1st VP Sharon Smoot. Luanne taught us how to make Lemon scones.



We enjoyed the Lemon Scones with maple bacon, mixed berries, yogurt and granola.

After breakfast we had our Executive Board Planning Meeting. Jr. Past President/Disaster Fund Chair, Susan Knudson couldn't be with for the weekend, but she joined the meeting via phone.

After the meeting we enjoyed refreshments while setting on the deck overlooking the lake. It was hot, but with fans going we had a relaxing afternoon and evening enjoying laughing and talking.



On Sunday morning we enjoyed breakfast together. Then we packed our cars, and headed to our respective homes.

Now we are working hard to get everything ready for Leadership/Fall Board Meeting. I know it is going to be a wonderful weekend filled with learning, good times, and building memories. I am looking forward to seeing the Georgia members in Dalton, Georgia, September 6-7, 2025.



SERC Newsletter Submission from Louisiana

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work in the Bayou State

It was indeed an honor to represent the LA State Council of ESA at the IC Convention hosted by SERC in Cary, North Carolina, July 15-19. It was with a great amount of pride that I accepted the four philanthropic and three St. Jude awards on behalf of the ESA members from Louisiana. Louisiana was recognized with a Danny's Dream Award for reaching the next million-dollar mark with a lifetime total of \$55,946,265.96. Louisiana was the number 2 state recognized by ALSAC for 2024-25 with \$3,018,682.

Anita Kay Hilburn (Alpha Delta), a LA past president, and I served as delegates from Louisiana. Anita Kay also serves as SERC Parliamentarian and was on the IC Convention Planning Committee. She spent many hours volunteering at the Registration table, preparing goodie bags, selling raffle tickets and other things to make the convention enjoyable for all. LA Past President, Betty Boullion, also served on the convention planning committee. Unfortunately, Betty could not attend due to her daughter having surgery scheduled for the week of convention. Lynda Edwards, IC President 2024-25, did a tremendous job presiding over the convention. By happenstance, I was fortunate enough to have some one-on-one time with Lynda at breakfast one morning. She is such a kind and gracious lady. I look forward to the leadership of Celeste Webb, our IC President for 2025-26. Her theme is "Anchored in ESA" and her installation was lovely.

A sampling of photos from convention include:

Pick, Play, Give game night St. Jude Fundraiser on Friday night with Anita Kay Hilburn and Nancy Darland dressed as New Orleans Saints football players with cheerleader Lauren Ryan from North Carolina



Nancy Darland and IC President Lynda Edwards with Nancy's 40-year ESA membership anniversary certificate



Louisiana and Mississippi sisters celebrated after the Installation and Banquet Saturday night: SERC Board members Parliamentarian Anita Kay Hilburn, President Dawn Middleton, Corresponding Secretary Casey Hoffman and Louisiana President Nancy Darland.



Beta Gamma is a Louisiana ESA Chapter with twelve members who live in several cities throughout the greater New Orleans area. President Cathy Lagaccia has chosen “Sparkle and Shine with ESA” as her theme. Members of Beta Gamma celebrated Rose Anne Mire’s 90th birthday. Rose Anne turned 90 on July

4th. Pictured here are Cathy Lagaccia, Regina Folse, Cary Haro, Molly Ventola, and Beth Mims from their chapter. Also pictured are Rose Anne's grandson Roy Williams and his 3 children (Rose Anne's great grandchildren). Rose Anne now resides in Ormond Nursing Home. She is a former Louisiana ESA President and Woman of the Year who planned many fundraising events for St. Jude's and Easter Seals.



The Louisiana ESA Chapters have also been busy over the summer volunteering at the St. Jude Dream Home Ticket Offices and Open Houses. Our Fall Council/Leadership will meet in Pineville on September 13 with the theme, "LA ESA: A Dream Team Ignited". Alpha Alpha will serve as our hosts.

Go Team ESA!

Nancy Darland

LA State Council ESA President



SERC Newsletter

August 2025

Submitted by: Katrina Saunders, Virginia State Council President

The Virginia State Council clearly decided that we were not in vacation mode this summer. We have been busy celebrating, making memories and being of service to others.

In June, I joined Beth Sherron, our State Projects Director, at the ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation Annual Celebration. The evening celebrated 50 years of ASK's impact in Virginia by recognizing the people and organizations that have supported their mission.

July brought twenty-two members of the Virginia State Council to Cary, NC for IC Convention. We had a blast celebrating our achievements, connecting with old friends and learning about all the new ESA changes that are coming our way. We were especially proud to celebrate Susan Caldwell as the Outstanding State ESA for St Jude Coordinator and to revel in all the monies Virginia and ESA have raised for St. Jude over the years.



Our chapters have remained busy over the summer months as well. Delta Rho and Delta Sigma both held Bingo events which were well received in their communities. Zeta Nu hosted their annual Easter Seals barbeque which gave members an opportunity to sit and visit without having to do "business". Our Beta Sigma Chapter hosted Alpha Nu, Beta Delta, and Theta Mu in their annual Founder's Day celebration which included honoring the 2025 ASK Outstanding Youth Award Winner, Chase Kilpatrick. Chase fought cancer as a small child and is now nineteen and attending school to become a Pharmacy Technician. The opportunity to celebrate his accomplishments with his family was a highlight of the luncheon.



One of the most exciting events of the summer was the meeting of the 2026 International Council Convention Committee. Virginia will be the proud host of the 79th Annual Convention which will be held in Norfolk, Virginia in July of 2026. Under the leadership of Beverley Wright and Marie LaDuke, Virginia is committed to welcoming our ESA members to Virginia to enjoy the “Sweet Virginia Breeze”. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!



We are doing a project at the SERC conference; stuffing stockings for military women. Please donate some items to show how much we appreciate them. We are planning for 100. Below is a list of items and an Amazon link. You can bring the items or send through Amazon. Thank you!!!!

[Amazon Military stockings wish list](#)



SANTA FOR SOLDIERS

Items should be travel size to fit in a stocking.

- AA, AAA batteries
- Canned chicken/tuna/salmon
- Beef jerky
- Slim Jim's
- Individual snack packs
- Pre-packaged trail mix and/or nuts
- Crackers/peanut butter/cheese
- Individual pkgs of cookies
- Seasonings (Tabasco/hot sauce etc)
- Powdered drink mixes
- LifeSavers/lollipops/hard candies (no mints)
- Throat lozenges/cough drops

- Liquid body wash (no soap bars)
- Deodorant
- Female personal care product
- Foot powder
- Q-tips
- Baby wipes
- Nail clippers
- Moleskin (Dr. Scholl's)
- Moisturizer (aloe vera)
- Hand sanitizer
- Eye drops
- Chapstick/Blistex
- Nasal drops (non-aerosol)
- Playing cards
- Chewing gum
- Socks

SERC Proposed Bylaw Changes 2025

Article VII

Section 2. The First Vice President, by virtue of the office, shall be known as President Elect. The First Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in the latter's absence. The First Vice President shall be chair of the Nominating Committee, and shall forward letters and nomination forms to the Presidents of the

Southeastern States, requesting nominations of qualified members for Southeastern Regional Council offices. A candidate's nomination form and letter of acceptance of nomination from the nominee, as requested, must be postmarked no later than June 1st.

Change to

The First Vice President, by virtue of the office, shall be known as President Elect. The First Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in the latter's absence. The First Vice President shall be chair of the Nominating Committee, and shall forward letters and nomination forms to the Presidents of the Southeastern States, requesting nominations of qualified members for Southeastern Regional Council offices. A candidate's nomination form and letter of acceptance of nomination from the nominee, as requested, must be postmarked no later **than June 15th or electronically sent by 11:59 pm on June 15th.**

Reason:

Not all conventions are held before June 1st and the nomination form requires the signature of the current/new State President.

Article XII

Section 1.

- b) The SERCH Editor shall edit the official Southeastern Regional Council publication two (2) times annually, in March and September. The SERCH

Editor shall appoint an editorial staff to assist in its publication and distribution to subscribers. The SERCH Editor shall recommend subscription price change for approval of the Executive Board. Within thirty (30) days following the annual Conference, The SERCH Editor shall forward the records of this office to the Auditor.

Change to:

The Newsletter Editor of SERCH will be appointed at the discretion of the president who will assure that the SERCH publication will be distributed at least twice during their tenure.

The reason for this change is that there is no longer a SERCH printed publication, and the newsletter will be published at least twice and circulated by email. It will be up to the SERC President as to who will be sending out the newsletter-example-their self, corresponding secretary or an appointed Newsletter Editor. Also, take out about the subscription price since it will be distributed by email.