**ESA Minnesota State Meeting via ZOOM CALL**

**November 14, 2020**

**Call to Order:** President Sandy Dolence called the meeting to order and the Opening Ritual was recited.

**Opening Thought** - Chaplain, Shirley Laue: Shirley shared *Footprints in Your Heart,* apoem byEleanor Roosevelt.

*Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart. To handle yourself, use your head; To handle others, use your heart. Anger is only one letter short of danger. If someone betrays you once, it is his fault; If he betrays you twice, it is your fault. Great minds discuss ideas, Average minds discuss events, Small minds discuss people. He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses much more; He who loses faith, loses all. Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art. Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself. Friends, you and me.
You brought another friend, and then there were three. We started our group, our circle of friends, and like that circle – There is no beginning or end. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. Today is a gift. That’s why it’s called the present.*

Secretary – Jackie Swanson: A silent Roll Call was taken among those participating via Zoom and those calling in. Sixteen elected/appointed board members and four ESA members. A motion was made by Dennis Marler for approval of the October 3rd meeting minutes with seconds from Julene Donnay and Marcie Haigh. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report –Kerri Petty: No report.

2nd Vice President – Marcie Haigh: Marcie asked members to please wear masks! There is scientific proof that wearing a mask protects others, but there is also some protection for yourself. As you recall, Marcie’s focus this year is on “Health and How to Stay Healthy.”

First Vice President – Sandy Hongerholt: Sandy thanked the eight members and four guests who attended the October 31st Halloween Rush Event at Hopkins Elks Lodge. Two of the guests joined ESA (Gamma Omega).

Parliamentarian – Diane Vanusek: Diane would like to see every chapter represented at the parliamentarian meeting in February 2021.

Jr. Past President – Dennis Marler: MN Love Fund. Dennis reported a balance of $8,096.19. He encouraged all of us to look around at chapter members who might need financial assistance due to Covid-19; if we see someone in need, fill out the paperwork and send to Dennis. IC Disaster Fund. Although the application process for disaster funds is more rigorous and qualification requirements stringent, Dennis said up to $5,000 is available if a member qualifies. Applications need to be initiated by the chapter president. Dennis also went through the list of things that do not qualify for financial assistance. Dennis will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Financial Committee – Kelly Check, Julene Donnay, Birdie Elkofska, Kathie Wasson: No report. Budget was passed at the last meeting.

Ways and Means – Betty Marler: Betty outlined the first ways and means project, *What’s it worth to you?* which starts this month.Betty is looking for donations of $5-$20 or more *for members not to have to sell door-to-door* at this time. Send your check(s) to Betty (9145 Kingsview Lane N., Maple Grove, MN 55369) made payable to MN ESA by November 30th. Thank you for keeping MN ESA a strong organization and helping our Treasury stay in the black!

Welcome Home Vets (WHV) – Betty Marler: Betty outlined two WHV projects:

1. Holiday Meal for the Veterans at Veterans East: The Hopkins Elks Lodge and ESA Minnesota are teaming up to provide a meal for the veterans at Veterans East on November 30th. ESA members will be providing holiday gift bags to the veterans. Sandy H. is the chef for the meal and coordinating gift bag donations.

ESA will partner with Elks members to provide sweet treat plates of cookies, bars, candies, etc. for the veterans. Betty is coordinating the sweet treat plates. If you are interested in making or purchasing cookies, candies, treats for the plates, please let Betty know what and how many (dozen, ½ dozen, etc.). Keep amounts modest as Elks members will also be bringing treats. Note*: NO gooey treats please. They are too messy to include on a paper plate covered in plastic wrap with a variety of other treats.*

Assembly of treat plates and gift bags will be Saturday, November 28th, 10:30 a.m. at the Hopkins Elks Lodge. Lunch and bar beverages will be available for you to purchase. If you’d like to participate in the work session, contact Sandy H. (shongerholt@yahoo.com / 612-267-3926) or Betty M. (dmarler@comcast.net / 763-494-8452). Ifyou are unable to come to the work session, but would like to make or purchase treats, contact Betty to make arrangements for Dennis and her to pick up your donation.

Sandy Hongerholt added that she has enough kitchen help for the 28th, however volunteers are still needed to help hand everything out at the apartment building. There is a sign-up sheet at the building through the cut-off date of November 20th. Meals will be packed at the Elks lodge in seven or eight hot-bags with a few hours of work to pack the gift boxes and take to the veterans at Veterans East on November 30th. The Holiday Meal event will begin at 5 p.m. The community room will be closed; however, tables will be set up for us in the lobby.

1. WHV Polar Fleece Blanket project: Gretchen and Rick Peterson have okayed the making of polar fleece blankets for veterans to receive as part of their welcome home kits. Veterans currently receive two canvas lawn chairs in their kits and a fleece blanket would make a cozy and welcome addition. If you’d like to purchase ready-made polar fleece blankets, or purchase fleece from a fabric store to make a blanket, Betty would be happy to collect completed blankets and deliver to WHV. Thank you for considering this project. Watch your in-box for blanket-making instructions.

Wishes & More (W&M) – Sandy Hongerholt: Wishes & More has office work that we can pick up and take home to work on or they will drop off to you and pick up. Kathleen is the volunteer contact (763-502-1500). Sandy will send out the latest W&M newsletter. Jodi Lang and Mari Scotch worked on a W&M mailing while they participated in the meeting today. Marcie Haigh said she had donated stamping and card-making supplies to W&M. President Sandy saw on the news that a boy in Crystal had a wish granted by W&M and said it felt good to know we/ESA are part of it.

Foundation Counselor – Jackie for Karla Kay Nicklaus: Thanks to all who participated and donated to the Murder Mystery Fund Fest Raiser. The Fund Fest raised $4,800!

The scholarship season opened on September 1st and as of October 31st, 330 completed and paid applications were received. The first Early Bird deadline was on November 1st and the final Early Bird deadline is December 15th for $500. The deadline for scholarships is February 1, 2021. The Minnesota State Memorial Endowment will award two scholarships in the amount of $2,600 for the 2021-2022 year.

Remember to send in your Foundation dues of $15 by March 1, 2021. To become a first-time member of the ESA Foundation it’s $25. Give Karla a call if you need a form.

St. Jude Senior Coordinator – Julene for Dee Rotering: Julene reminded us that we can be a part of events such as the Radiothon and safely volunteer through the St. Jude website. Julene says she is trying out the Cooking Class for St. Jude put on by Kansas ESA Sunday, November 15th. She will let us know how it works out and maybe we’ll give it a try in our state.

Association of the Arts – Kay Matras: No report.

Philanthropic – Birdie Elkofska: With MN ESA virtual meetings, Birdie believes it is best to wait until spring to have project candidates present their organization to us. Hopefully Covid-19 will be under control by then. Meanwhile, continue to send your philanthropic project ideas to Birdie and *keep doing philanthropic projects!* There are many ways presented today for us to volunteer safely!

Marcie announced that Beta Sigma will continue its shoe drive philanthropic project this year. They have collected 700 pair so far but need at least 500 more pairs. Ask around. If you find more shoes, Marcie is happy to arrange pick-up. Marcie asked for prayers as she goes into surgery on December 9th for a mastectomy due to a second bout with breast cancer.

Jodi Lang said that Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMDH) has remained open during Covid-19 with staff doing all of the cooking for residents. They are seeking philanthropic help from ESA with a list of its needs. (COO: Amy Ament, Direct: 612.767.2786; Main: 612.331.5752; aament@rmhtwincities.org )

* Common items needed: Gallon Ziploc Bags, Snack Size Ziploc Bags, Salsa, Salad Dressing, Pan Spray, Flour, Olive Oil, Paper Towel, Disinfecting Wipes, Free and Clear Detergent, K-Cups
* Via Instacart or other grocery vendor: Check with RMDH for most needed items at that time.
* Common items needed for meals: butter, shredded cheese, yogurt, fresh fruit, lunchmeat. RMDH serves 70-80 people per meal.
* Help with Holiday time meal courier service. Be a runner.
* Fill the Trailer Event. Need volunteers at various McDonald’s on Saturday 12/12 from 10-2, Saturday 12/19 from 10-2 and Tuesday 12/22 from 4-7 (5-6 volunteers per event).
* Remember RMDH on Give to the Max Day.

Mari and Jodi reminded us to include any potential rushees in our volunteer efforts as a great way to enlist new members. Birdie asked us to definitely include rushees and invite them to a philanthropic event.

MARC Representatives – Diane Vanusek & Sharon Desarmeaux: No report.

**Announcements**

Per Julene, Dee Rotering is in the hospital recovering from Covid-19 and hopes to come home soon. Cards and prayers are welcome.

Julene said she has polar fleece for making tie blankets for the *My Very Own Bed Project* which is giving much-needed beds to Twin Cities children who’ve either been sleeping on the floor, sharing a bed with a family member or who’ve just moved from a shelter into their own home. If you would like to make a tie blanket to donate to this cause, get in touch with Julene.

Dianne Ocel related that she has finished her second quilt for *Quilts of Valor* and will be donating it to them.

In response to Terri Olson’s question as to whether there is a deadline for the fleece blankets for WHV or if the need is ongoing, Betty Marler said the need is ongoing. She’ll be purchasing polar fleece with $250 from Thrivent. In response to many “how to” questions, Julene said she would put blanket-making directions in an email. (See Attachment: *Polar Fleece Blankets.)*

Lori Thorpe said that Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is continuing its food packing efforts in groups of five people. Masks are essential; your temperature is taken and you are asked a few questions before you can participate. Groups work six feet away from each other while packing.

Diane Vanusek. Alpha Sigma is selling hand-made cozies for bowls at $6/each plus postage. Cozies would make a nice Christmas gift or stocking stuffer.

**Old Business**

Per Shirley Laue, *Wreathes Across America* is December 19th. Order or donate wreathes by sending a check of $15/per wreath made out to Alpha Sigma, to Shirley Laue by November 30th. Shirley will send out an email blast should this event be curtailed due to Covid-19.

**New Business.** None.

**Meeting Adjourned**. Closing Ritual recited.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Swanson, Secretary

Attachment: *Polar Fleece Blankets*