



# PRESIDENT-Dennis Marler

## Mid-Year In Review

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! During this busy, busy time, I hope you were able to take a few moments to sit back, relax and reflect on all you accomplished this past year in ESA. You are AMAZING!

- ◆ ESA Minnesota State Convention. Alpha Sigma showed us how to do a three-day convention.
- ◆ Planning Meeting in June.
- ◆ Sold programs at two St. Paul Saints games as a Ways and Means project.
- ◆ Alpha Sigma had multiple garage sales.
- ◆ Alpha Zeta's Mark Petty completed the Warrior Dash in Le Sueur.
- ◆ Chaplain Marcie Haigh organized the Louise Penny book club.
- ◆ Alpha Sigma sold hot dogs at Co-

burns in Delano.

- ◆ Served meals at Hope 4 Youth, through October.
- ◆ Alpha Zeta hosted their annual Cruisin' for St. Jude motorcycle rally.
- ◆ IC convention in Memphis – Our own Terri Olson was installed as IC President, Minnesota members served in her Honor Guard.
- ◆ Gamma Omega hosted "Christmas in July" card stamping fundraiser.
- ◆ Finance Committee met at State Treasurer Kerri Petty's home.
- ◆ Sold butter braids as a Ways and Means fundraiser.
- ◆ First Vice President Sandy Dolence held the State Rush Picnic at Bassett Creek Park.
- ◆ Welcome Home Vets chairs, Betty Marler and Karen Schneider held a

housewarming party for our veterans.

- ◆ Minnesota State Leadership – Dana Terry, Dee Rotering and Julene Donnay showed us how to stand up, take charge, be leaders.
- ◆ Alpha Chi invited me to one of their chapter meetings. (I'm still waiting for more invitations.)
- ◆ ESA Minnesota State Meeting in September – Past President Sandy Hongerholt organized a bake sale as a fundraiser for the ESA Disaster Fund and the Minnesota Love Fund. Bruce and Dina Strachota shared their toilet paper icebreaker.
- ◆ Hope For Heroes – Served a Thanksgiving meal to veterans from the VA Hospital.
- ◆ St. Jude Walk/Run at Vikings Stadium. ESA Minnesota helped with registration.



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### Don't forget to:

- *RSVP for the Membership Mtg—01/23*
- *RSVP for the Casino Bus Trip—02/22*
- *Participate in the Shoe Drive*
- *Review the Philanthropic Information*
- *Save Old Mascara Wands*
- *Save the Date (May 29-30) for MN State Convention at Running Aces*

## President—(continued)

- ◆ Hope 4 Youth Gala raised over \$160,000.
- ◆ MARC Convention in Cincinnati.
- ◆ Gamma Zeta had a BUNCO party for St. Jude.
- ◆ Beta Sigma sold soups and cookies at craft bazaars.
- ◆ St. Jude Style Show and Silent Auction – the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual. Senior St. Jude Coordinator Birdie Elkofska, Junior St. Jude Coordinator Dee Rotering and Alpha Sigma were awesome.
- ◆ Gamma Omega's Welcome Home Vets Wine Tasting and More.
- ◆ ESA Minnesota State Meeting in November, Pot Luck hosted by Delta Mu. Philanthropic presentations from Welcome Home Vets and Friends of San Lucas Mission in Guatemala.
- ◆ Beta Sigma introduced their Gently Used Shoes project.
- ◆ Hope 4 Youth Out in the Cold in Blaine.
- ◆ Hope For Heroes – Wreaths Across America at Fort Snelling Cemetery.
- ◆ Welcome Home Vets prepared and served holiday meal to veterans at Veterans East and South.
- ◆ K102 Country Cares for St. Jude Kids Radiothon.
- ◆ MedTox crews continued to meet on Monday mornings. Thank you, Rhonda Krehl.

Thank you, ESA Minnesota, for your dedication to ESA. You are AMAZING!

Next up, the state meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will start at 10:00 with time to socialize before and after. It will be at the Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center 55430 (NOT at the Brooklyn Park Library). There will be coffee, juice and water available before the meeting. Sandy H. will have bake sale items for sale,

as a Minnesota Love Fund and ESA Disaster Fund fundraiser. No meal this time; we'll probably still be full from the State Social Crock Pot Challenge on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Save the Dates

- ◆ January 11 – Association of the Arts block printing class, Davanni's, Plymouth.
- ◆ January 18 – State Social, Crock Pot Challenge, Spirit of Christ Church, St. Louis Park.
- ◆ January 25 – State Meeting, Brookdale Library, Brooklyn Center.
- ◆ Mid-February – State Parliamentary Meeting.
- ◆ February 22 – State Social, bus trip to St. Croix Turtle Lake Casino.
- ◆ March 21 – State Meeting hosted by Beta Sigma, Spirit of Christ Church.
- ◆ May 29-30 – State Convention, Running Aces Casino and Hotel, Columbus.



## First Vice President—Sandy Dolence

### The Joys of Christmas

This year I didn't have the fun of shopping for gifts. No gifts and no wrapping. No Christmas lights in or outside, just a porch light. Our tree is two feet tall. I love to bake and cook, no smell of fresh cookies. The joy of cleaning the house or not. The love you put into your Christ-

mas dinner. Thank God for Jon. The one thing I didn't miss is the joy and happiness of being with my family and friends for Christmas. Knowing the meaning of Christmas.

The new year is here!! Would it be fun if everyone would try something new, get out of the shell. Try by going to a painting class, take up knit-

ting, take a walk with a friend or call that friend you haven't talked to in a long time. Go to a movie mid-week and eat popcorn.

Or best of all be on my board next year. Help us to have another great year and along the way we can get a few new members.

## Second Vice President—Dana Terry

Dear Dana,

Apparently my email Inbox is a mess because I can't find items that I really need. Help me, please!

Email Clutter Freak

Dear Email Clutter Freak -

Many people begin the new year by making resolutions. Did you make any? I am making 2020 my year to work on decluttering my house. One area of clutter that is often overlooked by people, myself included, is digital clutter. Is your email inbox (or even trash) overflowing? Do you constantly get emails that are junk? Everyone has digital clutter so I thought I would share some email decluttering tips that can help us all.

I swear I delete more emails than I read! Do you feel like you do the same? You can unsubscribe from many promo emails. Open those unwanted emails and scroll all the way to the bottom. Look for and click on the Unsubscribe link to remove your email from their list.

Now it's time to clean up/organize the emails we already have. Organizing emails can be a daunting task. If you have a million emails in your inbox...well you are just a hoarder!



No, in all seriousness, if you have so many emails to go through that you feel you will get overwhelmed, then create a folder labeled "To Organize". Move all the emails to the folder and work on organizing them little by little. As you go through your emails, delete ones you are confident you no longer need. Create folders or labels for emails that you want to keep. For example, I have an "ESA" folder and within that I have sub folders for: Essays, Historian, Ideas, Roster Info & IC Webmaster. I also have another folder for receipts which I use for email receipts I get for online purchases. You can create any kind of filing system that works for you.

Congratulations! You have a sparkly clean email inbox. Now keep it clean! If you can reply to a message in less than 5 minutes, just do it. Don't put it off. Then, archive the message, delete it, or drag it into a folder to get it out of your inbox. For



anything that will take longer, flag it and come back to it later. Set aside dedicated time each day or each week to clear out your flagged items.

Make a point to go through your folders / labels at a regular interval...maybe once a month or once a quarter, to clean out anything you no longer need to keep. Another thing to keep in mind is to empty your trash. It is really stinking up the place. (OK, I think we have established that I am not a comedian!) Empty your email trash file. Many times, when we delete an email, we forget that it's not gone completely. It has just been moved to Trash. Remember to empty your trash on a regular basis.

Clutter is not just stuff on our floor. It's anything that gets between you and the life you want to be living.



## Parliamentarian—Diane Vanusek

### CHANGE CHANGE CHANGE.

THE PARLIAMENTARIAN MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO FEBRUARY 5, 2020.

Please **change your calendars and watch for a location**. I would really like to hear from chapters other than Alpha Chi and I would like to start a head count of who is

coming. It is a possibility we can communicate telepathically, too.

At this time there are still plans for a Parliamentarian Meeting on February 5, 2020, but we do need some people to discuss stuff. Chapter presidents, please go back to your chapters and give me your chapter's opinions regarding the Second

Vice President position and establishing two-year terms. This needs to be a State discussion between all chapters, not just one or two.



Two very important deadlines coming in 2020!

- ◆ February 1 – College Applications due
- ◆ March 1 – ESA Foundation – A reminder to renew your dues – \$15.00 or become a member of the Foundation in 2020 – \$25.00
- ◆ Life Membership – \$500.00. Need a form – e-mail or call me. Thanks to all the Chapters and individuals for renewing your dues!

## MARC—Diane Vanusek and Sharon Desarmeaux

Take the time to read the November 2019 ReMarcs on the ESA MARC website written by Sandy Hongerholt and Birdie Elkofska.

If anyone or any chapter has information to share in our next article, please send it to Sharon or Diane. Tooting your own horn is not a bad

thing in this case.

The MARC conference for 2019-20 is in **Evansville, Indiana**, the second weekend in **October 10-11, 2020**. MARC your calendars.

Please visit the ESA MARC <https://www.mnesa.com/jump-drive.html>



## Philanthropic—Jackie Swanson

**Happy New Year! "As this New Year approaches find inspiration around you, and motivation within you, to be all that you can be."**  
**-Kate Summers**

I'm looking forward to the MN ESA State Meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We are scheduled to hear from **Ronald McDonald House Charity**. They will share stories and details about their organization which helps millions of families with sick children find comfort and support when they

need it most.

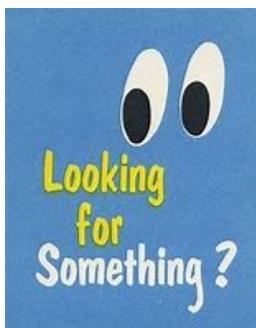
Let us resolve in the New Year to put our best foot forward in supporting our two philanthropic projects for 2019-2020, **Welcome Home Vets** and **Hope4Youth**.

**The importance of philanthropic reporting.** Philanthropic reporting helps maintain ESA's status as a 501.C3 charitable organization (through the ESA Foundation). SO - Be sure to keep a log of your

HOURS, MILES, GOODS and MONIES! (Philanthropic Year – June 1 - May 31 is the Reporting Period.)

As promised, included in this month's ESSAy are the [Philanthropic Service Guidelines](#), [Philanthropic Frequently Asked Questions](#), and the [2019 IRS Mileage Rate](#).

**Have a Great Philanthropic Year!**



## Welcome Home Vets—Karen Schneider and Betty Marler

Happy 2020! May the upcoming year be filled with laughter, joy, precious moments, good health and love of your family and friends.

We want to thank Gretchen and Rick Peterson for asking ESA Minnesota to support our veterans by helping serve the Veterans living at Veterans East and Veterans South. ESAers/spouses not only served a delicious supper made by Sandy Hongerholt, but also brought fabulous desserts for the veterans. A couple ESA members could not attend the event, but they sent lovely desserts. Many volunteers sat with the veterans during their supper and enjoyed great conversations. Some of the members carried food to the veterans' apartments and visited along the way.

That's sharing the love! We believe everyone took home a memory of an enjoyable evening spent with special people. Thank you, ESA



Minnesota, for your continued support and commitment.

As of Christmas week, Welcome Home Vets have delivered 400 welcome home kits. Isn't that incredible? Many of you have made one or more deliveries. You have experienced that warm feeling in your heart as you helped unpack the items in the kit

and witnessed the overwhelming joy in the veteran's eyes. Thank you for making a positive difference in



the lives of our veterans as they settle into their new homes.

We will continue to send email blasts from Gretchen and Rick asking for assistance in delivering kits. As always, contact them if you can make a delivery. If you have specific questions, please email or call us. If we don't know the answer, we'll find out and get back to you as soon as possible.

## Wands for Wildlife—Betty Marler



### Wands for Wildlife

Recycle & Save Wild Lives!

Did you know something as simple as an old mascara wand can help wildlife? Wild animal rescuers use mascara brushes to help remove fly eggs and larva from the fur of animals. They work great because the bristles are so close together!!

Do you have old mascara just lying around in a drawer? Clean off those old wands in hot soapy water and they can be put to good use! You may mail the clean wands to the address below OR give me your old wands, washed or unwashed, and I'll mail them

all together.

For more information: Wands for Wildlife

<http://www.appalachianwild.org>

Clean brushes can be sent to:  
Appalachian Wild  
P.O. Box 1211  
Skyland, NC 28776



## Alpha Sigma—Diane Vanusek

Alpha Sigma has focused on the veterans since the last Essay came out.

Birdie, Diane (and Don) and Shirley (and Herman) helped to serve the Veteran's Thanksgiving dinner and social at the Brooklyn Park Elks Lodge. The event was for disabled Vets, families and caregivers. We served the food and visited with the attendees.

Over six thousand wreaths were sponsored through Wreaths Across America to be laid at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Diane (and Don) and Shirley participated in this event by laying 30 wreaths in the designated sections and then adjur-

ing to the Five Eight Pub for lunch. It was a cold but rewarding day.

Karen, Birdie, Diane (and Don) helped to serve dinner at the Veteran's Home. This was sponsored by Welcome Home Veterans and the Hopkins Elks Lodge. The hot beef sandwiches were delicious (Sandy Hongerholt was the chief cook) and the veterans seemed to enjoy the evening. Attendees were sent off with lots of treats and full tummies.

Birdie and Sandy Hongerholt drove to Memphis, TN for the Memphis Marathon in December. Birdie requested donations of toys for the children; Birdie and Sandy dropped off over \$1,200 of toys that were

gratefully received. Thank you to all who donated toys and money.

A little unfinished business from November is for Alpha Sigma to thank all of you who helped in any way to make the St. Jude Style Show, Luncheon and Silent Auction successful. The overall profit was approximately \$8,000. Hugs to you all.

Birdie and Sandy also put out the first REMARCs issue in November as MARC co-communicators. It is on the MARC website.

Birdie has been suffering with knee pain and is facing knee surgery in the coming months. She wants to drive that new Toyota without pain.

## Beta Sigma—Eileen Spencer



Sunflowers: Put a Smile on Your Face & Joy in Your Heart for ESA

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We are excited to get back together in 2020! Some of our activities in 2020 will include:

- ◆ January 4, first business meeting and will include educations by Bonnie Olson and Judy Searles.
- ◆ January marks the start of our **Shoe Drive** (additional information follows).
- ◆ February 8, volunteer at **Feed My Starving Children** facility, Lone Oak Road in Eagan. If you would like to participate, contact Marcie Haigh at marciejoh@gmail.com or 612-267-0919.
- ◆ March 7, tour **Guthrie Costume Warehouse** after our business meeting.
- ◆ March 18, host State Meeting.

- ◆ April 6, Election of Officers at business meeting which will be followed with lunch and an afternoon of games.
- ◆ May 2, Beta Sigma's Musical and Educational Social.
- ◆ June, Installation.

### Beta Sigma November/December 2019 HIGHLIGHTS:

**Mason Jar Meals & Desserts sold out** at Mary Mother of the Church's (MMOTC) Arts and Crafts Fair!



However, to accommodate a sale at the Spirit of Christ Bazaar, BS members jumped into action to create 24 more jars to sell!

Pres. Judy Searles wrapping up sales at MMOTC fair.

**NOTE:** A few remaining soup and dessert jars will be available for sale at State Meetings.

If you don't attend these meetings, we suggest you ask your president to pick one (or two/three) for you at the State Meeting.



## Beta Sigma—(continued)

Our **Christmas Party** was held at the festive home of Kay Fogerty.

A pot-luck brunch was held and followed by our Secret



“Sisters/ Brother” reveal and gift exchange.

Kay shared this newspaper clipping announcing their new ESA sorority in 1957!



Kay is last woman on right.

## SHOE DRIVE STARTING JANUARY!

The **BETA SIGMA SHOE DRIVE** to benefit 3<sup>rd</sup> World Countries – Funds to Benefit Local Charities. This **SHOE DRIVE** is headed up by **Marcie Haigh**, BS Philanthropy Chair. Marcie **BLAST** additional information (flyer follows).



**WE NEED YOUR OLD SHOES**

## Delta Mu—Terri Olson

Yessiree! Delta Mu may be small in size group-wise, but we're strong in spirit! Having fun while volunteering to help others is exactly what we're most proud of doing for our communities and for each other. And so on that fabulous note, if you were at the last Membership Meeting, you heard Julene explain what we have planned for you for our Minnesota State Convention.

Dennis, our Amazing State President requested a two-day State Convention so we thought we might try something a bit different to fulfill his request .. two days of fun, socializing, short meetings, and fun and socializing and fun; you get the picture, right?



We hope you'll plan to **Save the Dates of May 29-30** to join us at Running Aces Casino and Racetrack. It should be a new and fun experience. There will even be folks at Running Aces to help us learn what to do regarding betting on a horse to hopefully win the race. And if you're like me, I need all the help I can get since I usually pick the **name** of the horse I like the best; who cares about statistics, right?



It's a brand new hotel and casino, so we should have a wonderful time socializing, having fun, attending short meetings, socializing, and having fun! More information coming soon. Hope to see you there!



# Philanthropic—Questions and Answers

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED PHILANTHROPIC QUESTIONS/ANSWERS (revised 2012)

The following questions and answers are those asked most frequently. This is intended to be a "guide" to help you interpret the meaning of the official Philanthropic Guidelines. When in doubt, it is always best to ask your IC Philanthropic Chair.

**Q. How are chapters registered for IC Awards?**

A. The state awards chairman and/or board member within your State is assigned to submit a list of chapters not registered for IC Awards to ESA Headquarters by December 1. All Chapters are automatically considered registered unless they are removed from the submitted list. Check with your state chair to be certain your chapters are registered.

**Q. How do chapters keep track of hours and monies donated?**

A. Many chapter philanthropic chairs have a "member notebook" which is brought to each meeting to update activities or individual notebooks are distributed in order to keep track of one's hours/monies.

**Q. Can an item donated to your chapter be used as a philanthropic project and be counted?**

A. Yes, using the monetary value of the item(s).

**Q. Money from a September finance project will be donated in March. When do we count the hours/monies?**

A. Count the hours at the time of the project and count the money when it is donated.

**Q. I work for "\_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary". May I count my hours?**

A. If you are volunteering in the name of ESA and are involved with such BECAUSE OF ESA and it qualifies as "aid to those in need", the answer is "yes." If you work with "\_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary" on your own, the answer is "no."

**Q. Can I count the hours and monies on a project if no one else in the chapter works on it?**

A. If it is indicated in the chapter's minutes as a "blanket statement" that this project is chapter sanctioned, you may count the hours. However, it must be in the name of ESA and indicated as such. (Philanthropic Service Guidelines/Revised 2003 - III - Special - C.)

**Q. We plan to give part of our Ways and Means Project proceeds to philanthropic projects and part to our treasury. How do we count the hours?**

A. Proportion hours according to the percentage of money given to your philanthropic project(s) and count only that number. For example, your project nets \$1,000 profit with 100 hours.

# Philanthropic—Questions and Answers

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Your chapter uses \$250 for the budget and donates \$750 to philanthropic. The philanthropic hours report would be 75.

**Q. Can a Member-At-Large (MAL) who works on a project count their hours and monies to help the state funds?**

A. Yes! Any hours/monies that are donated to the State for a project that an MAL has worked on CAN be counted.

**Q. Can I count the hours I spend on a chapter project even though I am the chair of the project?**

A. Yes! All hours spent on a philanthropic project by ALL MEMBERS may be counted, however, the ADMINISTRATIVE hours of your elected/appointed office may not be counted.

**Q. Does a Chapter need eight (8) or more members to qualify for awards or does it matter how many are in the chapter?**

A. The minimum number of eight (8) is not longer used for awards based on percentage of members.

**Q. Are collegiate chapter members considered part of the state count or do they participate in the awards as a separate chapter?**

A. Collegiate chapters are part of your state's totals unless the state chair requested they not be registered for IC awards as discussed in a previous question. If they are registered and participate in a philanthropic project, count the hours and money as part of the state total.

**Q. If the collegiate chapter chooses the Girl Scout troop in their community to assist with their ESA sponsored project/events, can those hours be counted?**

A. The time spent on the ESA project with the Girl Scouts would be permitted to be applied to the ESA philanthropic service and if the sponsored project/event was being held to benefit the troop, the monies donated to them would also be permitted to be applied.

**Q. Are Foundation Annual Dues counted as philanthropic/service monies?**

A. Yes! ESA Foundation dues and monies contributed can be counted.

**Q. What is the philanthropic year?**

A. Philanthropic year: June 1 – May 31 is the Reporting Period. These dates are for the IC Philanthropic reporting and competing in awards presented at IC Convention. This may differ from your state ESA year which may be from convention to convention. (IC Philanthropic-Service Guidelines/Revised 2003 – III. Special E.)

**Q. If a chapter hosting state convention donates a percentage of convention profits to the state philanthropic project, can that chapter also report the same percentage of their hours spent on planning and preparing for convention on the philanthropic report?**

A. The ESA meeting/convention is NOT planned as a philanthropic project nor as a chapter fundraiser. The hours or percentage of hours worked or in planning CANNOT be counted toward philanthropic hours even if the profit is donated to the state philanthropic project. Only the documented funds may be counted as philanthropic monies by the chapter IF this is

## Philanthropic—Questions and Answers

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PRE-DOCUMENTED in your chapter minutes and approved by the state. This response is true even if the chapter co-hosted convention with the ESA Foundation.

**Q. Our chapter wishes to make a philanthropic donation through the ESA Foundation Turn-Around Funds. How does one accomplish this?**

- A. Your chapter should make checks payable to "ESA Foundation." A form describing the correct instructions is available from your ESA Foundation Counselor or the ESA Foundation, 363 West Drake Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526, phone: 970-223-2824, or can be found on [www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org](http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org) under the Foundation.

**Q. The mileage rate changes periodically. How does one govern the rate increase?**

- A. The mileage rate changes accordingly to the IRS rates. Most states go with what the IRS rate is at the beginning of their year to make it fair to all members and less confusing to the State Philanthropic Chair.

**Q. May travel time to/from a philanthropic project be counted?**

- A. Yes! Each member may count travel time even when riding with another member; however, *only the driver* may count the cents per mile (current IRS rate) for monies. You may not count travel time to/from a scheduled chapter meeting even though philanthropic work is performed at this meeting. Additionally, NO air travel time or funds paid to the airlines may be counted by an elected/appointed IC or Foundation officer as these are administrative positions and NO FUNDS are actually donated to or used for philanthropic projects.

**Q. How do we report aid to a chapter ESA member?**

- A. Monies donated by the chapter are reported as chapter donations; hours spent by members helping the member or private funds are listed by the individuals for a total chapter accounting, e.g., a member is seriously ill and needs assistance, the hours spent by another member assisting them are counted and any monies donated by either the chapter or an individual member are counted. If your chapter furnishes food for the funeral of a member or her immediate family, members may count the hours spent purchasing and making the food and any monies donated to assist with expenses of the member. (IC Philanthropic-Service Guidelines/Revised 2003 – III – Special B.)

**Q. Can hours spent by a chapter taking a Red Cross First Aid course be counted as philanthropic hours?**

- A. No. You are not aiding those in need even though you derive benefits from the course and may later use it to benefit the disabled or those in need. If your chapter organizes and sponsors a First Aid class and advertises it as "ESA Sponsored", then your members may count hours spent in planning and organizing the class, but not time in the class.

**Q. Our chapter of five organized a Roller Derby last summer to benefit one of our IC philanthropic projects. In the fall, with several members moving out of town, the three remaining members decided to disband our chapter and join another chapter in our city. How do we count the hours spent and monies earned on our Roller Derby?**

- A. A "Final Chapter" report should be sent to your state philanthropic chair listing the hours and monies donated by the five members. This will give an accurate accounting of the state's philanthropic hours and donated monies for the current year. The members joining another chapter need to begin a new count of the hours and philanthropic donations they are now

# Philanthropic—Questions and Answers

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accumulating. Hours and monies may be counted only once and with the chapter that planned and organized the event.

**Q. If I purchase items at a chapter garage sale designated as a fundraiser for our philanthropic project, can that money be counted as a donation?**

A. Yes! The money would be counted as part of the total donation to the project.

**Q. How much time should be counted for collecting the toner cartridges for Easter Seals?**

A. Cartridges count only for the total number sent to the recycling company per chapter. The recycling company sends these totals to the IC Easter Seals Chairman quarterly for the reports. Hours, etc. are not counted for the Cartridges for Kids program.

**Q. When collecting Campbell soup labels, how much time can be counted?**

A. You may count the time it takes to drive to and from the store.

Our ESA Philanthropic Service Guidelines state that "*philanthropic service is the time and money directed toward the betterment of mankind . . . to improve the conditions and promote the welfare of those who need it.*"

# Philanthropic—Service Guidelines

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## *PHILANTHROPIC SERVICE GUIDELINES*

The purpose of these Guidelines is to clarify that our philanthropic service is the time and money directed toward the betterment of mankind - to improve the condition and promote the welfare of those who are in need of it. These guidelines are for the purposes of ESA recognition and do not necessarily reflect IRS requirements. Please consult your accountant for clarification.

### **I. General Information**

- A. Hours and monies donated by an ESA member in "the name of ESA", can be counted.
    - 1. Hours represent the time spent from beginning to completion of a project.
    - 2. Monies represent cash donations from the chapter treasury or by a chapter member to a service project.
  - B. Donated Goods are estimated by figuring 15% of the retail value on used items and full retail value on new items.
  - C. Roundtrip mileage (for driver only) on an ESA service project may be counted. For current rates, use the current IRS rate as of August 1<sup>st</sup> which is noted on the attached form.
  - D. Civic services are community projects, not necessarily related to ESA projects.
  - E. Individuals can count volunteer service hours done in an education setting or group activity even if their child is involved. Church activities cannot be counted if a member is employed by the church. Activities done for an organization associated with a church can be counted provided the chapter members are doing their philanthropic works in the name of ESA and it is indicated as an official chapter project in chapter minutes.
  - F. Service monies are the portion of ways and means projects donated to charitable and civic projects.
    - 1. If all the proceeds are donated, count all monies and total hours spent raising funds. If proceeds are divided among several projects, monies and hours should be divided on a percentage basis.
    - 2. If only a portion of the proceeds are donated, count only a portion of the hours and money. Figure which percent of the net proceeds is being donated, and count the same percent for hours.
    - 3. If a fundraiser event is specified or advertised as a "benefit" for any philanthropic project(s) total net proceeds must be donated to project(s).
- II. **Hours and monies** for ESA Affiliated Projects (i.e., St. Jude Children's Research Hospital-ESA for St. Jude, National Easter Seals Society, ESA Disaster Fund, and ESA Foundation) should be counted the same as any other project.

### **III. Special**

- A. Babysitting-member may count hours on a project when sitting for an ESA member working on an ESA service project. (Do not count monies paid to a sitter)
- B. Aid to an ESA member - count hours/monies should a member be "in need or disabled" due to chronic/terminal illness or other disaster or extreme setback.
- C. Blanket Statement – At the beginning of the year, Chapters should indicate all of their major projects; members can count hours/monies donated towards these specific projects. All philanthropic projects are to be listed in the Chapter's minutes.
- D. Snowbirds – If a member belongs to a different chapter while away from her home chapter for a period of time, she is allowed to report hours and/or monies for ESA philanthropic projects/events in accordance with the chapter that sponsored the project.

# Philanthropic—Service Guidelines

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Philanthropic Year – June 1 - May 31 is the Reporting Period. These dates are for the IC Philanthropic year for reporting and competing in awards presented at the International Convention only. This should not be made a requirement for each State or Chapter to follow for philanthropic reporting.

## IV. Clarifications

- A. Homemade Items donated to a philanthropic-service project – count time spent making, baking, etc. and the value of materials used in the items. Homemade items cannot be counted as cash until they have been sold.
- B. National Drives, Radiothons/Telethons
  1. When an event is totally organized by ESA, count all hours worked
  2. monies received, less expenses
  3. If a Chapter only performs part of the work, count hours only. The percentage factor on the ESA chapter's responsibilities, and mutual agreement between the fund-raising organization and the ESA chapter(s) prior to the event, will determine the monies credited to ESA.
- C. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
  1. Reporting is counted the same as any other ESA service project. Count all hours/mileage and net monies donated.
  2. Do not count extra hours or monies spent on a complimentary room voucher for working in a distant city for a St. Jude event.
- D. National Easter Seals Society
  1. Reporting is counted the same as any other ESA service project.
  2. Check with your local Easter Seal Coordinator relative to the "Cartridges for Kids-Easter Seals" project.
- E. Bloodmobiles and Blood donations
  1. Count chapter hours for sponsoring the drive and registering donors, etc.
  2. Count ESA member's blood donation (whole blood = \$50 per pint & platelets = \$200 per pint)
- F. ESA Foundation Turn-Around Fund
  1. Make your chapter check payable to "ESA Foundation".
  2. A form can be found on the Foundation website [www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org](http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org), or through your ESA Foundation Counselor or the ESA Foundation, 363 West Drake Road, Ft Collins, CO 80526. Telephone: (970) 223-2824.
- G. Cash Register Receipts
  1. Receipts redeemed for computers and other school equipment may be counted as a donation.
  2. Count only 12.5% of the total amount of the receipt, not the total amount
- H. Manufacturer's Coupons
  1. Count manufacturer's coupons donated as part of a service project as face value stated on coupon.
  2. Count chapter hours for preparing donated manufacturer's coupons.



## IRS issues standard mileage rates for 2019

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IR-2018-251, December 14, 2018

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2019 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2019, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 58 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3.5 cents from the rate for 2018,
- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, up 2 cents from the rate for 2018, and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The business mileage rate increased 3.5 cents for business travel driven and 2 cents for medical and certain moving expense from the rates for 2018. The charitable rate is set by statute and remains unchanged.

It is important to note that under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, taxpayers cannot claim a miscellaneous itemized deduction for unreimbursed employee travel expenses. Taxpayers also cannot claim a deduction for moving expenses, except members of the Armed Forces on active duty moving under orders to a permanent change of station. For more details see [Notice-2019-02](#).

The standard mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than four vehicles used simultaneously. These and other limitations are described in section 4.05 of [Rev. Proc. 2010-51](#).

[Notice 2019-02](#), posted today on [IRS.gov](#), contains the standard mileage rates, the amount a taxpayer must use in calculating reductions to basis for depreciation taken under the business standard mileage rate, and the maximum standard automobile cost that a taxpayer may use in computing the allowance under a fixed and variable rate plan.

*Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 28-Jun-2019*

### **Editor's Note:**

If we are driving to an ESA meeting, Doug Mills, ESA's Comptroller, has told the IC Board to use the \$0.58 per mile rate.

# ANNOUNCING

BETA SIGMA FUNDRAISER

DONATE

**"GENTLY USED" SHOES\***  
in GOOD, WEARABLE CONDITION



*(NEW SHOES ALSO ACCEPTED!)*

**SHOES NEEDED for Children, Women, & Men in  
3<sup>rd</sup> World Countries  
ALL Sizes & Styles**

**So... clean up those worn shoes...**

***Polish 'em, Wash 'em, Replace Raggedy Shoelaces!***

CANNOT accept shoes with rips, loose soles, dirt, scuff marks or missing/ragged shoelaces!

If you wouldn't wear them, please don't ask the needy to, thank you.

\*Shoes will go to "Developing Countries" where shoes are scarce and badly needed.

**Epsilon Sigma Alpha**  
**Minnesota State Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 25, 2020**

Brookdale Library  
6125 Shingle Creek Parkway  
Brooklyn Center 55430

Social: 9:30 A.M.  
Meeting: 10:00 A.M.

Cost     \$ zero  
No Meal     Beverages provided

**Disaster Fund / Love Fund**  
**bake sale items available to purchase**

RSVP to Dennis by January 23rd  
[dmarler@comcast.net](mailto:dmarler@comcast.net) or 763-494-8452

# Beta Sigma Casino Bus Trip Fundraiser—February 22, 2020

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MINNESOTA ESA

Presents

## “CASINO BUS TRIP FUNDRAISER”

Saturday, February 22, 2020

St Croix Casino-Turtle Lake, WI

Cost: \$25.00 Per Person

- We will meet at Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church-**5801 Minnetonka Blvd, St Louis Park, MN at 8:30 am to check in.** Bus leaves at **9:00am SHARP.**
- The bus will leave the casino at 3:30pm and will return to Spirit of Christ at 5:00pm.
- Trip will include drinks, snacks, fun and games.
- **Please note:** The bus is not handicapped accessible.

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Please fill out and return this section with check made payable to “MN ESA” and mail to  
Bruce Strachota at 10110 96<sup>th</sup> Place N, Maple Grove, MN 55369 by February 8, 2020.  
Questions? 952-693-5911

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

DOB\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Casino Player Card Number (if you have one)\_\_\_\_\_

Epsilon Sigma Alpha  
363 W. Drake Road  
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Phone: 970-223-2824  
Email:  
esainfo@epsilonsigmaalpha.org



EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA

[www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org](http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org)

*Epsilon Sigma Alpha (ESA) International is a special organization—  
an organization that is truly defined by the hearts of its members.*

*An international leadership and service organization, ESA is a place  
where members develop meaningful friendships, find their passion  
for community service, and continue on the path of lifelong learning.*

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

*ESA is Good Friends, Good Works, and Good Times... We create activities and  
support causes that let us surround ourselves with welcoming, positive people  
who enjoy making a difference and having fun together.*

## MINNESOTA ESSAY

All issues of the ESSAY are published here: <http://www.mnesa.com/>

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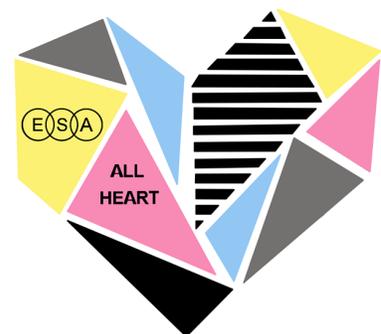
The ESSAY is published on a monthly basis August—May (except December) at the beginning of each month.

The deadline for submission of articles is the 25th of each month.

**Chapter Presidents, please share the newsletter with members in your chapter who may not have email.**

If you would like to be included on the email list, please let me know.

Terri Olson  
ESSAY Editor  
[terri.mnesa@gmail.com](mailto:terri.mnesa@gmail.com)



—Terri Olson,  
International Council President 2019-2020