



ESSAY

PRESIDENT-Dennis Marler

This month I was going to recap our third state meeting, which was held on Saturday, January 25th, at the Brookdale Library. But our State Secretary Betty, is too quick for me. It's Sunday morning, January 26th, and she's halfway through typing the minutes. She'll have her draft done and sent off to a committee for review later today. By the middle of next week, she'll email blast the minutes to all of you, a couple days before the ESsAy is due.

So, I've got nothin'. I can't tell you about the

Ronald McDonald House presentation, or how we voted to reallocate the MedTox money for December and January, or the fun things Delta Mu is planning for our state convention in May.

You'll already know about Parliamentarian Diane's meeting on February 5th, the Casino state social on February 22nd, Association of the Arts Chair Kay's sun paper class on April 17th, and First Vice President Sandy's high tea rush event on April 18th.

Oh, so much I could have shared with you:

Beta Sigma's shoe drive, the Louise Penny book club and Past President Sandy's cake walk at the "Let's Think Spring" state meeting in March.

I haven't read Betty's minutes yet, but I bet she even told you about Social Co-Chairs, Dina and Bruce's self-portrait, nickname, fun fact icebreaker. "She who must be obeyed," you are AMAZING!

I guess all I can add is we had some fun, we did a little business and we wrapped it up in under two hours. But you already knew that.

First Vice President—Sandy Dolence

Well I'm getting ready to go to the Leadership Feb 6th. So, when you read this I'll be back with a lot of new ideas.

Set April 18th for a High Tea, get your white gloves and your fancy tea hat out. This will be a rush tea. If you

have a teacup, bring it with you. We will be having a light lunch and tea. It will be at my church in Robbinsdale. Flyers will be coming out and will be a fun day. Start thinking about which guest or two you will bring.



Remember to be true to yourself and do your best. You are a light in someone's life.



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Don't forget to:

- *RSVP for the Casino Bus Trip—02/22*
- *Participate in the Chillin' Challenge*
- *Review the Philanthropic Information*
- *RSVP for the Membership Mtg—03/21*
- *Participate in the Shoe Drive*
- **Make Hotel Convention Reservations**
- *Save the Date (May 29-30) for MN State Convention at Running Aces*

Parliamentarian—Diane Vanusek

There will be a Parliamentarian Meeting on February 5, 2020, starting at 6:30 pm. I have heard from five chapters on this point. About six people plan to attend at this point, but there is room for more. The meeting will be at my home, 10488 Washington Blvd NE Blaine. (There are not time constraints at my home.)

If your chapter has not made its opinions known, let me know as soon as possible. If anyone, for that matter, wants something brought up

and cannot attend, please send it to me in an email dvanusek@comcast.net

BEFORE THE MEETING. Postal mail is okay too.

It is not anticipated that we will be going through the Bylaws/Standing Rules one-by-one as printed; only the items you/your chapter wishes to be considered for change. The Second Vice President position and establishing two-year terms will be

discussed and decided as to what will be brought to the State Convention for a delegate vote.



ESA for St. Jude Coordinator—Birdie Elkofska

Looking at my calendar I see that our ESA year is fast approaching the end and Minnesota ESA still has to raise funds for the children treated at St. Jude Hospital. How about one last challenge.... we have been doing many small projects and raising money so let's try another one. If each ESA member could just participate and perhaps

donate \$10 or more ... wow what a great total we would have. So, I have come up with a little ditty that might add a chuckle or two to your life during this chilly winter and by participating you will add a smile to a child who is fighting for his or her life.

SO, in the ESsAy is a St. Jude CHILLIN' CHALLENGE. I look for-

ward to hearing from each and every one of you around March 2nd with how you were able to donate ... a little something each day of February ... think about doubling the total amount and really making this a successful February project. Ask your spouse or a friend to join you in this. Happy February!

ESA Foundation—Karla Kay Nicklaus



Thanks to all the members and chapters for the paying your dues, **but** a reminder to chapters and individuals to renew your members by March 1, 2020.

Eileen Spencer and Marcie Haigh became members of the Foundation. Thanks Eileen and Marcie!

ESA Foundation dues – \$15.00 for renewal and \$25.00 to join the

Foundation. \$500 for a lifetime membership.

Send to: ESA Foundation, 363 West Drake Road, Ft Collins, CO 80526

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>

for more information. The password is ESAMARC1985. This was added for security.



Philanthropic—Jackie Swanson

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
VETERANS

Welcome Home Vets—Karen Schneider and Betty Marler

We asked Gretchen and Rick Peterson to update us on the Welcome Home Vets program. Here is a short story from two Elks volunteers we want to share with you.

From the Petersons:

The Welcome Home Veterans program just reached 400 formerly homeless vets! This program would not be possible without great partners like ESA.

The following story from a volunteer explains how important ESA's support is to those who receive it.

"This evening Kristi and I did another Welcome Home" kit delivery...assisting another homeless Veteran into

stable housing. We are sharing this NOT for accolades in our delivery effort. We are sharing our story to gain awareness of the need.

Tonight, Ms. Hayes will not be sleeping on a cot at the Salvation Army Shelter in downtown Minneapolis! She was moved to tears that people cared this much! She was ecstatic to have her own place, cleaning supplies, food, bedding, chairs, a full kitchen set up, and most of all a microwave!

We received huge hugs and tears from her as we left her new home.

Best wishes to Ms. Hayes and thank you for your service!

Another life affected by those who care!"

We also asked Gretchen and Rick who in ESA has recently assisted with kit deliveries. THANK YOU Rose and Jim Bitter, Karen Schneider, Kay Matras and Vicky Sandhofer-Krolick for delivering kits to the no-longer-homeless veterans. Each of you has a story to tell. Maybe you'll share your story with us, and we'll spread it to our membership. When you receive an email saying there's a veteran moving into permanent housing, please call the Petersons to volunteer. Believe us, you'll be moved, hugged and dearly appreciated.



We cannot thank you enough for your cards, texts, emails, visits, gifts, support and prayers while Chris lived in the hospital for six months.

He moved into Abbott Northwestern on May 1st and received his heart transplant on August 19th. He then recuperated in the hospital until he was released on November 1st.

Since that time, he has continued to heal and gain strength. We are grateful for the love that our ESA family showered upon us during this difficult time! You were there for us and helped buoy us up during the long and often dark days. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Love always, Lori, Chris, Katie and Jordan Thorpe

State Convention—Julene Donnay, Chair

Delta Mu is getting exciting about being your host for the 2020 Minnesota State Convention. We have checked on a few facilities and locations to get you out of the CITY, and have a fun experience at the same time. Along with that, we also had a VIP in our chapter that we were trying to accommodate, you know who she is! Anyway, we are asking for your forgiveness because we have had to change the date of our State Convention to make it all work and President Dennis has given us permission. After all, he is the boss of us this year, so we are grateful for his flexibility.

SO, first you need to make the DATE CHANGE on your calendar to **May 29 and May 30!** Yes, that is AFTER Memorial Day, and probably a first for Minnesota. He would also like us to keep it to a TWO-day convention this year, and we can do that! So, we will be starting a bit earlier on Friday with some really fun workshops for those that can make it, and the 'official' part of convention will start around 5 PM.

If you were present at the State Membership meeting on 11/23, you would have had some fun making mini s'mores. It was all in practice for some of the fun activity coming up at the State Convention. Convention will be 5/29 and 5/30 and we will be hosting you in Columbus

MN!! Who doesn't know where that is?? Okay, how about Forest Lake MN? We are going to be at the **Running Aces Racing, Casino and Hotel!** A brand-new hotel that is almost finished, and it is beautiful!

And the perfect size for a MN State Convention.



We will be having our Friday Night Mixer Party at the race track, on their patio, with a beautiful fire and cocktail bar, we will have some really fun downhome music for you. Do not worry, if there is inclement weather, we will be right off the ballroom, so yes, we would go indoors.

Please start preparing your race day costumes; a little horsy, cowboy-like, etc. but no Derby hats on Friday night, save those until Saturday.



We will be doing our installation early on Saturday ... **around the 4 o'clock hour, so**



that is when you will do your dress up outfit!

fit!

Because after that – we are going to the RACES!!

Again, right outside the patio door of the hotel, and you will have soooo much fun. We will have a workshop for you on Friday or Saturday on how to bet the horses, if you want to. If not, it's just as much fun to be a spectator and cheer on your favorite pony.

NOTE: The Convention Registration Form is included in the ESsAy. The form includes directions for securing the special room rate.

This is a brand new hotel and there are other events going on the same weekend as Convention, so be sure to book your rooms right away; we don't want to run out of rooms at this wonderfully-discounted rate!



State Convention—Save the Date



SAVE THE DATE CARD

“RUNNING FOR THE JONQUILS” 2020 STATE CONVENTION

- Starting Early on **Friday May 29 through Saturday Evening May 30, 2020**
- Location: Running Aces Hotel, Casino, Racetrack
Columbus MN (Forest Lake)
- Room Rate: \$119 for King or Double Queen

LOADS OF FUN being planned for everyone, and we can't wait for you to enjoy the races and pick the winning foals and fillies at the races on Saturday evening.



Alpha Sigma—Diane Vanusek

What is happening in Alpha Sigma?

Birdie, MARC Co-communicator, is going to the MARC mid-year board meeting with Sandy Hongerholt in Evansville, Indiana, site of the October 2020 conference. If you are looking for her blue Saturn at events, you will not find it. Look for a white Toyota, with lots of bells and whistles and more room for ESA stuff. ESA is about learning new things and there are lots of new things to learn with the new car, especially using the back-up

monitor.

Birdie is also anticipating surgery to replace a knee. She is ordered to lose some weight and those brownies at the meeting did not help.

Sharon D is anticipating three great -nephews making her a “threepeat” great great-auntie and adding another great-niece or nephew to her extended family.

Shirley will be a great-grandma for the fifth time.

Diane’s hair has been getting whiter from the stress of updating to Windows 10. Why does not Microsoft consult me before making all those unnecessary and confusing changes? Diane and Don have booked their trip to the IC convention in Australia. We are so excited.

Ann Becker, Karen Schneider and Pat Staffanson have been unable to attend meetings. We hope they are able to resume activities soon. They are missed.

Beta Sigma—Eileen Spencer



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



The first Beta Sigma meeting of 2020 was hosted by Kim Larsen* at the beautiful, eclectic offices of RSP Architects in North Minneapolis. This will be BS’s last meeting at RSP since **Kim is RETIRING February 24!**



Bonnie looked quite “bonnie” wearing one of Ed’s tuxedo shirts and jacket!!

Inspired by the recent movie *Beautiful Day in the Neighbor-*

hood, Judy provided us with the history of Fred Rogers, aka, **Mr. Rogers**. Judy went through his musical background, how his hit children’s tv show began through his love and caring of all children, and by creating all the shows using his operatic vision, “... *it is easier to say through music*”. We were able to see video footage from the show to more clearly understand how Mr. Rogers implemented his theories. Music lessons

were intentionally built into the songs performed on the show. *The Fred Rogers Center* is located in Latrobe, PA, Fred’s place of birth. Members thoroughly enjoyed learning about how music was a great part in the lives of both of these talented gentlemen presented by two amazing ladies. GREAT JOB!!

*Inspiring message from Kim: *While we (husband Jim, niece Milana and myself) were visiting family in Wichita, KS, Milana and I accompanied my brother-in-law Frank to work a two-hour shift at the Kansas Food Bank. Frank is a retired Cargill (yes, our Minnesota Cargill) VP and Cargill is a significant supporter (the building we worked in is called the Cargill Cares Complex).*

After a full meeting, two *Educational* presentations were given by Bonnie



Olson and Judy Searles. Bonnie gave an overview of The Apollo Club men’s performing choir which her late husband Ed sang with for decades until his passing. We were provided with the background of the club, along with concert programs, pictures and a display of only some of the medals Ed was honored with through his years with Apollo. Our

hood, Judy provided us with the history of Fred Rogers, aka, **Mr. Rogers**. Judy went through his musical background, how his hit children’s tv show began through his love and caring of all children, and by creating all the shows using his operatic vision, “... *it is easier to say through music*”. We were able to see video footage from the show to more clearly understand how Mr. Rogers implemented his theories. Music lessons



Our crew consisted of seven retired Cargill employees, Milana and me. We



Beta Sigma—(continued)

sorted donated food products by product type (canned goods, break-fast items, condiments, boxed goods, etc.) and checked expiration dates. Our team sorted five pallets of mixed food products in our two-hour shift. The products are then packaged for school kids into backpacks, serving 6,100 children in 380 schools, and for distribution to the elderly and homeless. The Kansas Food Bank also operates regular food shelves throughout Kansas, covering 73,000 square miles. Way to go Cargill.

REMINDERS:

- ◆ The Beta Sigma **SHOE DRIVE** runs through March. With a goal of collecting **2,500** pairs of shoes, members are busy gathering shoe donations from family, friends and neighbors. **WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN IN THIS EFFORT TO BENEFIT 3rd World Countries in desperate need of shoes.** **ALL** sizes & styles accepted. Feel free to contact **Marcie Haigh** for pickup or more information via email:



marciejoh@gmail.com or phone: 612-267-0919.

- ◆ **SPACES OPEN** Beta Sigma will start February off by volunteering at **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** on **Saturday, Feb. 8, from 8:45-11:00 AM.** To **JOIN** us, please [This Photo](#) by reserve your packing slot by contacting Marcie Haigh via Email: marciejoh@gmail.com or Phone: 612-267-0919.



Gamma Omega—Joyce Cobb

Minnesota Brothers and Sisters, I hope you are enjoying a wonderful life during the first month of 2020!

Gamma Omega has had a productive 2019 year. How could we not with those who are on our TEAM? We are looking forward to the great things that will occur during 2020.

Many thanks are due to our recent, current and upcoming State Presidents who are members of Gamma Omega. These are Sandy Hongerholt, Dennis Marler and Sandy Dolence. My gratitude is expressed to each of you.

Did you know that the youngest member of our chapter is a teenager? He is Jeff Kurtz. Jeff is now a

member of the Junior Varsity Hockey Team at Cooper High School. His grandmother, Sandy D., is using her time wisely by completing sewing projects and thereby adding hours for Gamma Omega. Go, Sandy! She is currently working on a blanket.

Did you know that Sharon's granddaughter plays soccer for St. Benedict's College? This activity keeps Sharon active and engaged.

We plan to soon meet and greet Athena, the miniature horse. Athena is currently learning new skills like counting to five and the process of giving kisses.

Chris continues to recuperate from

his heart transplant. He looks great! Blessings to all of the family.

Happy 2020 to Arlene Besemann, our Lifetime Inactive Member. Maybe, within the next few months, a gathering can be arranged so that she can attend. Betty and Dennis continue to try keeping up with her. They have recently visited with her.

Carol Crepeau will continue to be in our memory. I miss her. May she rest in Peace!

Gamma Omega continues to work on projects for St. Jude, Minnesota, and the international community. We are busy. Ask us about it.

What will 2020 bring?

Gamma Zeta—Dorothy Wangen

So sorry you have not had any news from Gamma Zeta. My excuse is that I am working at Macy's and find that either I am too tired or just plain forget.

Judy and Jim and Ron and June

took a trip to Laughlin, NV - we have not heard of any BIG winners!

Also, a former member's husband passed away - Dave Paulson, died December 17, 2019 - Lynn Paulson was a member of Beta Beta.



Philanthropic—Questions and Answers



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

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

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 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

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

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 1st 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

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 or 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, 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

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.

Beta Sigma—"Gently Used" Shoe Drive

Epsilon Sigma Alpha International 501(c)(3)

BETA SIGMA Chapter

ANNOUNCES

our 1st philanthropic

SHOE DRIVE

**GOAL: to Collect 2,500 Pairs
to BENEFIT 3rd World Countries**

through Funds2Go 501(c)(3)

DONATE GENTLY USED &/or NEW SHOES

ALL TYPES – STYLES – SIZES

Ask friends & family!



Shoes **MUST** be in **WEARABLE** condition to be accepted by Funds2Go.
OK to polish, clean, replace laces; *please, no scuffs, tears, missing laces, etc.*

!!! DONATE NOW !!!

SHOE DRIVE runs January thru end of March, 2020

DONATIONS & QUESTIONS, Contact: *Marcie Haigh*

Ph: **612-267-0919** or Email: Marciejoh@gmail.com

Thank you!

Beta Sigma Casino Bus Trip Fundraiser—February 22, 2020



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.

.....
Please fill out and return this section with check made payable to “MN ESA” and mail to
Bruce Strachota at 10110 96th 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)_____

“Let’s Think
Spring!”
Hosted By Beta Sigma Chapter

**MN ESA STATE
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

LUNCH FOLLOWING THE MEETING

Cost: \$12

Ham & All the Fixings |
Assorted Salads
Dessert | Beverage



SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

9:30 AM Coffee/Social

10:00 AM Meeting

SPIRIT OF CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5801 Minnetonka Boulevard, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

GUESTS are *Always* **WELCOME!**

RSVPs/Market Table Requests (By March 14th) TO:
Jackie Swanson 952-220-4836 or
jacqueofhearts@comcast.net

\$\$PLAY CASH RAFFLE \$\$WIN

Chillin– Challenge for St. Jude—Due March 2, 2020

ST. JUDE HOSPITAL CHILLIN' CHALLENGE

INSTRUCTIONS: Put your actual donations on a piece of paper with that amount on it into a container. At the end of February add this all up and write out a check for the amount and mail the check to Birdie Elkofska, 3320 Louisiana Ave S., #206, Mpls., MN 55426. Or bring the check to the ESA March Board Meeting. Have FUN now and remember you are doing this to help the children of St. Jude Hospital.

FEB DATE	CHILLIN' CHALLENGE	YOUR AMOUNT
1	Is it CHILLIN' outside? Below 30- 30 cents or Above 30 – 10 cents	
2	HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY – If you have a Pet – 30 Cents. No Pet – 40 cents	
3	Did you watch any sports this past weekend? Yes – 35 Cents No – 25 Cents	
4	Sunny Today? 25 cents No Sun – 35 Cents	
5	Hugged a grandchild, niece or nephew – 10 cents per child No hugs – 25 cents	
6	Tossed out food item past expiration date – 10 cents No – 35 cents	
7	Ate at least 2 fruits today – 10 Cents No – 55 Cents	
8	Read a book? 40 Cents – No Reading – 60 Cents	
9	It's Sunday – Did you go to church? - 10 cents No church for you – 50 cents	
10	CHILLIN' Monday – Did you pay for the heat? 50 Cents – No Money Left – still 50 cents	
11	Did it snow today? Yes – 10 No – 20 cents	
12	LINCOLN'S Birthday – any pictures of him in your wallet? 20 cents No money – 30 cents	
13	Clean Out a Drawer – 20 cents No – 35 Cents	
14	HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! Did you kiss someone today – 35 cents! No – 50 cents	
15	Did you eat any chocolate candy today? Yes- 25 Cents No – 5 cents	
16	See a Movie? 50 cents No – 25 cents	
17	Popcorn with the movie? 45 cents No – 20 cents	
18	Have you seen any ESAer since February 1? Yes – 35 cents No – 65 cents	
19	Have you eaten 3 vegetable today? Yes- 35 cents No – 60 cents	
20	Have you laughed out loud today? Yes – 35 cents No – 60 cents	
21	Cooked a really good healthy meal this week? Yes – 25 cents No – 75 cents	
22	WASHINGTON'S birthday! 5 cents for all--- no wooden nickels	
23	CHILLIN' with someone special today Yes – 5 cents Alone and not chillin' at all? – 75 cents	
24	Watched the news today? Yes – 40 cents No – 60 cents	
25	Ten Months until Christmas Good News – 45 Cents Awful news – 65 cents	
26	WISHING for spring flowers Yes – 20 cents No – 65 cents	
27	Mail – 10 cents for each piece you received	
28	Tossed out old items this past week – 10 cents for each item	
29	COMPLETED YOUR FEBRUARY CHILLIN' CHALLENGE For the children of St. Jude Hospital – toss in another buck	

Now do not forget to write out that check and send it into Birdie for a St. Jude Donation from the State of Minnesota ESA. Of course, if you wish to donate more, that is wonderful! Thank you for playing this CHILLIN' game with a purpose.



Minnesota State Membership Meeting—March 21, 2020



2020 MINNESOTA ESA STATE CONVENTION “RUN FOR THE JONQUILS” FRIDAY – SATURDAY, MAY 29 AND 30, 2020

Name	Chapter	Delegate	YES	
			NO	
Address	City, State, Zip Code	1st Time Attendee	YES	
			NO	
Guest Name	Guests are invited to attend all meetings and functions			
Full Registration		Cost	Member	Guest
Includes Registration Fee, Friday Lunch, Mixer, Dinner, Saturday Lunch, Banquet		\$120		
Partial Registration (check all that apply)		Cost	Member	Guest
Registration Fee (Required for ALL except Banquet Only Guests)		\$15		
Friday Lunch		\$20		
Friday Dinner		\$25		
Saturday Lunch		\$25		
Saturday Banquet		\$35		
Attending Meetings Only		\$20		
TOTAL REGISTRATION COST (Make Checks Payable to Delta Mu)				
RUNNING ACES CASINO, RACETRACK AND HOTEL, COLUMBUS MN REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY MAY 15, 2020 LATE REGISTRATION AFTER MAY 15 WILL BE CASH ONLY WITH A \$20 PENALTY HOTEL REGISTRATIONS: https://www.grandstayhospitality.com/find-a-hotel/locations/running-aces/overview NOTE: Click on the link above, enter Check-In and Check-Out dates, enter # of adults, enter Group Code: ESA, click Check Rates and Availability, choose your room – either King Track View or 2 Queen Standard, click Book Now and complete your Reservation entering billing information, etc. Mail your Registration Form and Checks for Delta Mu to: Dee Rotering, 11764 Red Fox Drive North, Maple Grove MN 55369				

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

*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/>

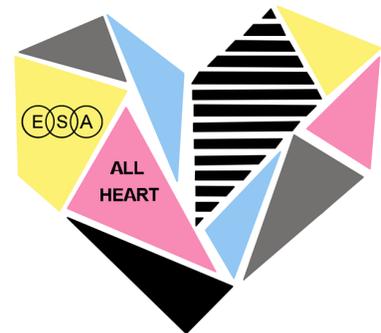
The ESSAY is published on a monthly basis August—May (except December) at the beginning of each month.

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



—Terri Olson,
International Council President 2019-2020