

# MINNESOTA ESSAY

ISSUE 4 OF 9

NOVEMBER 2020



## Don't forget to:

- Save the date for the November 14, 2020 Membership Meeting
- Let Sandy H know if you can help with the Veterans Dinner on November 30th
- Volunteer to help Wishes and More
- Volunteer to help Welcome Home Vets
- Participate in the Ways and Means project
- Share some Chapter News
- Be Kind to Each Other

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## PRESIDENT—SANDY DOLENCE

As the snow is here that must mean winter is here too. By the time you read this our rush party is over and I know we had a great time as usual. We always talk about getting new members, but how about our "old" members?

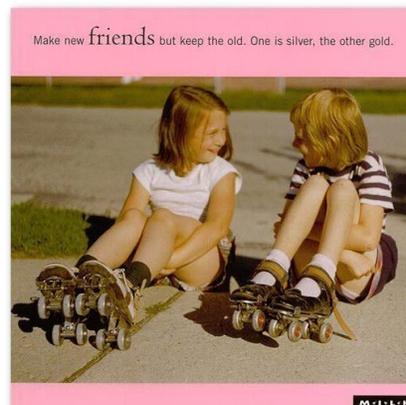
With all that is going on we are not able to get together with no meetings or socials like we used to. We could send cards out, we can make a call, drop a little gift off, we all can do a little something to put a smile on their face.

Call someone from another chapter to see how they are doing or ask if they have a good book that you can check out.

If they cook, ask them for a new recipe or share one you love. Have a zoom call with someone and tell jokes.

We have a few outstanding members in our state. Terri Olson, who was our I.C. President; she had a great year and had a lot of fun. Julene Donnay, she was

Terri's right hand lady. She was the Corresponding Secretary. This year Julene is the IC Chair for Hope for Heroes. She has a lot going on. Then Birdie Elkofska and Diane Vanusek are on the MARC board this year. Our 1st Vice President is Sr. St. Jude for I.C. and Co-communications for MARC. How she keeps it all straight I will never know. Good people come out of Minnesota. Thank you ladies!!



## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT—SANDY HONGERHOLT

Thank you to all who participated in our Rush Event on Halloween. I will report at the State Meeting on November 14 how many new members we have.

The Annual Holiday dinner at Veterans East will be on Monday, **November 30th at 5:00pm**. In partnership

with the Elks, we will provide a hot meal and a box of non-perishable groceries. The residents really enjoy homemade treats. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer this year at the event, donate homemade goodies for dessert or if you or your

chapter would like to contribute something for the boxes we will pass out. I will also need help in the kitchen the day of and help with getting everything to the building. There may be some packing of the gift boxes before the event. We anticipate 75-80 residents will sign up to re-

ceive a box of non-perishable groceries. If you would like more information please contact me at [shongerholt@yahoo.com](mailto:shongerholt@yahoo.com) or (612)267-3926. We will make this event as safe as we can for everyone.



Leave a space for the meeting on your calendar. We may all need a time out of the house in February anyway.

## PARLIAMENTARIAN—DIANE VANUSEK

There will be a Parliamentarian Meeting in **February 2021**. I expect all chapters to be represented as the proposed by-law changes

to be voted upon next spring are VERY important to our organization.

There is plenty of time for chapters to solidify opinions, change opinions or add/subtract proposals.

## JUNIOR PAST PRESIDENT—DENNIS MARLER

How do I thank you? Traditionally, I would've bought each of you a little something as a way to thank you for your help and support during the past year. But none of you need another trinket you'll someday put in a garage sale. Another way would've been to send

each of you a nice card with a sincere thank you message. But the best you'll ever get from me is a short email, a text or a Facebook thumbs up.

Then, by accident, the answer was provided. At MedTox last week I asked one of our guests what's new and exciting

in her life. She told me she had just joined another group, The Minnesota 100 Club. The mission of the Minnesota 100 Club is to provide financial help to families of first responders who have been seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

At this time in Minnesota, I can't think of another group that needs our support more. As my way of thanking you, I have made a donation to the Minnesota 100 Club.

Thank you.



Just a short note to thank everyone for all the cards, emails, and texts you sent during my recovery from hip replacement surgery. Your kind words of encouragement and support mean the world to me. Recovery so far has been quite good...although I'm not ready to run a 10K!

Thank you all, Rose Bitter

## CHAPLAIN—SHIRLEY LAUE

Cards were sent to: Pat Staffanson, hospitalized for stomach issues and to Arlys Hanson on the death of her son, Ty Hansen.



### Thanksgiving Day Prayer

We take so much for granted of life and liberty,  
And think that we deserve it; that all was done "for me".

Think how they must have struggled,  
New pilgrims in this land.

So many died from hardships  
Yet still they made a stand.

When all the work was finished,  
New crops sowed in the ground,  
They gathered with their neighbors,  
Asked blessings all around.

Oh God, help us to be grateful  
For gifts you've sent our way.  
For those we want to thank you  
On this Thanksgiving Day.

Kris Ediger

## MARC REP—DIANE VANUSEK

The October 10, 2020 virtual conference of the ESA Midwest Area Regional Council is history.

The new officers are President, Brenda Fields; Vice-President/Pres-Elect, Kim Polling; Secretary, Brenda Templeton; Treasurer,

Jill Shull; Parliamentarian, Jill Richards; Communicators, Birdie Elkofska and Sandy Hongerholt.

We are getting better at Zoom meetings. The agenda was well carried out. During the breaks, we had time to visit with other at-

tendees. It was an entertaining installation of Brenda and her board. The minutes should be available soon on the MARC website.

P.S. I did not win the "The Mysterious and Remarkable Container". Sigh!



## PHILANTHROPIC—BIRDIE ELKOFKA

How many of you are thinking you wish you could do something for others during this COVID-19 time of isolation. Well you CAN !! There are many Seniors in nursing homes that are really feeling isolated. Find a way ... either call the establishment, ask your church if they are able to help, ask your local Senior Community Center .... ASK if you can have the names of a few of

those people. Send them a card telling them HELLO and explain that they do not know you, but you still want to send them some cheer.

There is always the COUPON collection project where you gather Manufacturers Coupons and cut them out and tally them and send them to a military base so the families on that base can get food

and merchandise at a reduced rate. The way I do it is to get a Flat Rate Envelope - Priority Mail from the U.S. Post Office and put cut up coupons (after I tally the amount of total money) inside and then go to a program I heard about at an ESA International Convention called Overseas Coupon Program - Base List and pick one of the many military bases

across the world and address it and fill out the post office forms and then take it to them for mailing. If you think that is too much trouble maybe just cut the coupons and give them to someone who does the process and I know they would appreciate it.

Knit or sew, etc. clothes or blankets or whatever for the needy. Hats and mittens and

## PHILANTHROPIC—(continued)

quilts are always welcome at every charity it seems.

If you chat with friends, family and ESA sisters and brothers I bet you will hear about other things you can do for others while you are staying in place these days.

I was asked if an ESA member participates in remote learning with a

school age child by assisting, is this something they can take ESA Philanthropic hours for their efforts.

I checked this one out with the IC Philanthropic Chairman and was told as long as you are saying you are doing this as a philanthropic project for ESA and you do NOT get paid then this qualifies under "aid

to those in need" and the answer is YES.

She went on to suggest that you and your chapter have something in your chapter minutes saying something like: "The \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of ESA will allow an individual member to count all personal philanthropic projects they work on during the year, including financial

donations, goods donated, mileage and philanthropic hours worked and the person informs the receiver that this is an ESA project for her to work on. So please continue to do all the activities you have been doing for those in need and know it is something you can count as Philanthropic in ESA.

## WISHES AND MORE—SANDY HONGERHOLT



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Wishes and More Chair. The following was sent as an email after our State Meeting. If you or your chapter would like to volunteer please contact **Kathleen Hollahan • Fundraising and Volunteer Manager**

[kathleenh@wishesandmore.org](mailto:kathleenh@wishesandmore.org)

763-502-1500 • [www.wishesandmore.org](http://www.wishesandmore.org)

They have ongoing volunteer opportunities which are listed below. I will forward any new information I receive. Thank you for choosing Wishes and more to support for our ESA year 2020-2021!

**Wishes & More®:**

◆ Grants heartfelt wishes

to kids struggling with terminal & life-threatening conditions in Minnesota & those being treated in Minnesota.

- ◆ Supports all wish kids who go on to higher education with a Scholarship of Hope®.
- ◆ Provides a monetary gift to the parents of a child who does not survive to experience the joy of a wish.
- ◆ A local children's charity, serving local families and supported solely by local businesses and individuals.

◆ Proud that \$.88 of

every dollar spent goes directly to our programming.

- ◆ • Proud to offer personalized attention to each family and on our ability to grant popular, Midwest, outdoor & motorized wishes to kids ages birth to nineteen.

*Help support the mission of Wishes & More by giving a financial gift in any amount, volunteering, organizing a fundraiser, donating, collecting items for our wish kids or attending/ sponsoring a Wishes & More event.*

### GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in any of the following op-

portunities or would like to learn more, please reach out to **Kathleen Hollahan** or visit the website, [www.wishesandmore.org](http://www.wishesandmore.org)

### Mailing Events—Recurring: October, November, December

Location is flexible. Can be done at our office in Fridley or at your home/ office/favorite place.

Help us with our crucial communications throughout the year. Stuffing, sealing, and labeling envelopes makes for a great at home or socially distant group activity.

We provide materials and can drop off, if necessary. The following dates are currently

## WISHES AND MORE—(continued)

scheduled, and we would love your help:

- ◆ Direct Mailer in October
- ◆ Holiday Mailer in November
- ◆ Winter Ball Mailer in December

### Wishes & More Pledge Drive – Ongoing

Organize a pledge drive for your Chapter or at work. We are always in need of items for specific wishes and/or supplies we use on a daily basis.

Recently, we granted several wishes for car

allowances, so we did a pledge drive for car-related items. You can take a look at our Amazon Wishlists for ideas:

[https://smile.amazon.com/gp/ch/list/20-1766318/ref=smi\\_cl\\_ls\\_llol\\_lol](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/ch/list/20-1766318/ref=smi_cl_ls_llol_lol)

### Wishes & More Office Support - In Office Support

If you are interested in helping in the office and have experience with Word, Excel, Access, mailings, and/or general administrative duties, please email

**Kathleen Hollahan.**

### Wish Program Activities - Ongoing

At the Wishes & More office or location of your choice.

- ◆ Decorate our monthly “Check-In” cards to Wish Kids waiting for their wish
- ◆ Create and decorate “Wish Reveal” Cards
- ◆ Pool resources to purchase toys and games for our Wish Children and Siblings
- ◆ Be a part of a wish reveal! Help plan a reveal party. Purchase and/or deliver gifts/food/

beverages to wish reveal and help us surprise a wish kid

### Winter Ball Volunteer - Now – February 13th

Help with our largest and most exciting fundraiser of the year:

- ◆ Donate an item/help solicit auction items
- ◆ Help create baskets for silent auction
- ◆ Help set-up and tear down the weekend of the event (Feb. 12th – 14th)

## WAYS AND MEANS—BETTY MARLER

Hello ESA Minnesota Members!

Are you ready to hear about the first Ways and Means event for the 2020-2021 year? I know we all want to support ESA Minnesota to keep it a strong, vibrant organization.

I heard ESAers are great salespeople. Many years ago, you went door to door selling light bulbs, and another time you sold bows and ribbons as state projects. Last year we worked at

Saints baseball games selling game day programs.

While many of you are amazing salespeople, some of us are unable to get out to sell things or we're just not very good at selling anything!

Our first state project will be: **What's It Worth To YOU ???** What is it worth to YOU to NOT go door to door selling stuff? It may be worth \$10 to you. Or maybe it would be worth \$25 to

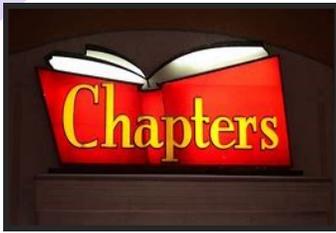
you. Whatever it is worth for you **NOT TO SELL** goods, please send me a check or cash for that amount.

No hassles. No door to door sales. No standing outdoors in lousy weather. No nothing! Just a nice donation to our State Treasury. If you have any questions, please contact me at

[dmarler@comcast.net](mailto:dmarler@comcast.net) or 763.494.8452. Send your donation to me at 9145 Kingsview Lane North, Maple Grove, MN 55369.

THANK YOU for keeping our state treasury in the black. ☐





## ALPHA SIGMA—DIANE VANUSEK

The Alpha Sigma chapter needs to fill up the hours spent on the Silent Auction so Shirley, Birdie, Sharon and Diane took a road trip for lunch about a week ago to Grandy, MN. Straight up HWY 65, but don't blink or you will miss it. There is broasted chicken and then there is The Brass Rail's broasted chicken. A new lunch experience for Sharon and Shirley, a return to a favorite for Diane and Birdie. It was fun just to

have an outing for socializing.

As the Audit Chair for MARC, Diane learned how to virtually audit the books. She may do it that way next year too. It was quite painless but will need to figure out how to avoid printing out so much documentation.

Shirley is probably winging her way to Florida at this time for a little family time. She has buttoned up her

garden and continues to recover from her encounter with a tree.

Sharon is still in virtual school with Andrew for a few weeks more. The new way of doing math does not make sense to Grandma. Isn't this about the ninth revision of math since we were in school? Look it up, it is weird.

Birdie did a VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION (really silent) for St. Jude's Hospital. It is

now done. She is so happy and thankful to all of you who donated. A special thank you to those who told their friends and family who normally go to the annual St. Jude Luncheon, Style Show and Silent Auction all about her VIRTUAL event. You all came through and she is sending in \$2,345 to help all the children at the hospital. THANK YOU ALL!!!!

## DELTA MU—TERRI OLSON

We are a small chapter, but we are mighty! We are always willing to assist in some way or another.

Julene, Tim, Dee, and Kathy have all volunteered at some time to deliver Welcome Home Kits. Dee continues to keep us posted about multiple St. Jude opportunities.

I'm participating in the Virtual Memphis Mara-

thon on December 5th, 2020. Since I am hoping to be in sunny Florida by then, I have volunteered to do a slow stroll for the 5K.

My fundraising goal is \$500 and I'm nearly halfway there. If you'd like to support my efforts in any amount (cuz it all adds up), you can find my fundraising page at [http://heroes.stjude.org/Terri\\_Olson](http://heroes.stjude.org/Terri_Olson)

Delta Mu is hosting the next Membership Meeting (see the flyer in this issue of the ESSAy) and I will provide the Zoom link for those who are not comfortable in attending in person.

And, don't forget, we are also hosting the State Convention in 2021. Let's start hoping and



crossing our fingers that COVID-19 will allow us to be together in person again!



Delta Mu is hosting the Minnesota Epsilon Sigma Alpha November Membership Exciting Fall Meeting with a chance to get together, safe-distanced, and masked. **Saturday, November 14, 2020.** Meeting starts at **10:00AM.**

## **MAPLE GROVE EAGLE LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER AND THORSON PARK**

**6259 Eagle Lake Drive – Top Entrance**

Please RSVP to Julene Donnay, at [Julenedonnay@aol.com](mailto:Julenedonnay@aol.com) or 612-805-9098 and confirm if you attend only for Morning Treats or for Morning Treats **and** the Luncheon.

We will have **Morning Treats** (coffee and some treats individually wrapped for you when you get there) and a delicious salad with chicken, fresh bread, and dessert **luncheon** prepared by Delta Mu and presented to you in individual Packages.

**COST FOR COFFEE AND MORNING TREATS — \$3.00**

**COST FOR THE DAY (Morning Treats and Lunch) — \$12.00**

We will also provide a Zoom link to the meeting for those of you that are not comfortable coming in person. You **MUST** RSVP so we make sure to send you the Zoom link.

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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.**



—LeAnn Wray  
International Council President  
2020-2021

**MINNESOTA ESSAY**

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

The ESSAY is published on a monthly basis 9x/year from 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 chapter members who many not have email.

**Please share the ESSAY with prospective members who may want to learn more about Epsilon Sigma Alpha—Minnesota.**

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



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