

**Virginia State Council
Epsilon Sigma Alpha International
General Board Meeting
October 2, 2005**

The fall meeting of the Virginia State Council was called to order at 9:52 at the Holiday Inn in Staunton, Virginia. Voting delegates were issued index cards to use as their vote indicators.

Opening Ritual: All members stood to recite the Opening Ritual.

Chaplain's Message: Judy Williams thanked everyone for keeping her informed of those sisters in need. She asked that when we contact her about a sister in need, we include the name of the chapter and the address of that particular sister if possible so she can get to know more of us. She placed a list of those we need to keep in our thoughts in the chapter folders. Included in this list were: Suzanne Budd, Roxie and Roger Toth, Ginny Hales, SERC president, Moe Bamber, Shelby Hodges, Ginger Yopp, and the members of Alpha Tau who lost a friend and sister, Brenda Click.

Judy called our attention to the recent hurricanes and wild fires. She said that Rose Pasillas, the IC chaplain, has done a remarkable job keeping the state chaplains informed about our sisters all over the country but especially the southern states. She inspired us to help those devastated by tragedy in anyway we can and she called attention to several members and chapters who have contributed through knitting, crocheting, and hosting a candle party. Before giving a beautiful prayer, Judy read Psalm 46.

Welcome: Brenda Orebaugh welcomed everyone to Staunton. The membership showed their appreciation for the wonderful Leadership program.

Minute Approval Committee: The appointed committee to approve the minutes of this meeting will be Sandy Reed of Beta Tau and Beverley Wright of Beta Omicron.

Recognitions: Lynne introduced the head table as, "The Willing to Try Anything Heroes". Doris Hood was acting Parliamentarian in Nicole Lewis' absence. She introduced the VSC Past Presidents as our "Proven Heroes" but no longer "has beens". With the encouragement of Marie LaDuke and Theresa Seay, the PPAs have set up a mentoring program for the Executive and Appointed boards. Lynne had the PPA's stand and recognize who they were mentoring and why.

Lynne recognized the 2005-2006 chapter presidents and said they were heroes in the trenches.

The President of the Blue Ridge District Council, Lisa Files, was also recognized.

There were no guests in attendance.

Credentials Report: Millie Simmons reported the following:

Chapters Represented	14
Members Present	53
Officers Present	7
DESA's	0
Guests	0
MALs	0
Votes—Officers	5
Votes—Delegates	18
Votes	23

A quorum was declared.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting were approved by Sue Foy and Susan Caldwell.

Correspondence: Marie LaDuke received letters of absence from Nicole Lewis, Bonnie Feldhauser, Sharon Shaffer, Vilma Graves, and Jennifer McClellan. Jennifer McClellan sent a note of thanks for the prayers and well wishes for the arrival of Baby Michael. She also gave a website where we could go and view pictures of their family. The web address is: www.mcclellans.com

Financial Report of the 2005-2006 Treasurer: Ginger Yopp presented the financial report as follows:

Balance on hand June 25, 2005	\$2,684.99
Deposits:	
7/12/05-VSC PPA Reimbursement Bond	\$150.00
9/16/05-Chapter Dues	\$254.00
9/20/05-Chapter Dues	\$138.00
9/23/05-Chapter Dues	\$ 98.00
9/27/05-Chapter Dues	\$392.00
9/30/05-Chapter Dues	\$ 63.00
Total Deposits:	\$1,095.00
Disbursements:	
* Ck # 1150 08/12/05 IC dues	\$35.00
Ck # 1001 08/25/05 IC dues	\$ 5.00
Ck # 1002 09/30/05 Lynne Rightmyer	\$1,000.44
Airfare IC	\$379.80
Lodging IC	\$380.64
Registration IC	\$135.00
Flag Pole Rental	\$15.00
Registration SERC	\$90.00
Total Disbursements:	\$1,040.44
Balance on Hand- 09/30/05	\$2,739.55
Savings Account June 28, 2005	\$1,372.54
Interest	\$.03
Total	\$1,372.57

There were no questions. The financial report was filed for audit.

Auditor's Report: Sue Danielson and P'Nut Schools reported that the following books for 2004-2005 were audited and found to be accurate: VSC Treasury, Lamplighter, 2005 Convention, and State Project. Sue Danielson moved that the audit report be accepted as presented. There was no discussion. The motion was voted on. The motion was carried and the auditors' reports were accepted. Lynne dismissed the audit committee.

Reports of Elected Officers:

First Vice President-Cindy Maxwell

Cindy Maxwell is still looking for ladies to serve for 2006-2007 year. She is going to place forms for candidates for office in the chapter folders. Cindy also reported that the June 24th VSC meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Virginia Beach. The room rates are \$119. This rate will be available both before and after the meeting if everyone would like to make their trip into a long weekend.

Second Vice President-Jane Shamblin

Jane went to IC for the first time and really enjoyed it. She placed information in the chapter folders about two membership specials. The first is pledge one new member for \$69 and the second new member can join for free. This applies to ladies who join between now and May 31, 2006. New members must be from the same chapter and both applications must be submitted at the same time. The second special is especially for new chapters. You can sponsor up to 10 new and/or reinstated members for a package price of \$200.00. Additional members, up to 19 can join for \$15.00 each. You can sponsor 20 members or more for \$300.00. This special runs from now until January 31, 2006. All applications must be received at the same time and it does not include DESA or Men of ESA chapters.

Recording Secretary-Sheen Childress

No report.

Corresponding Secretary-Marie LaDuke

Marie reported that the VSC Yearbook was ready for distribution. She offered a big thanks to Beth Sherron for printing the hard copies and also to Susan Caldwell, last year's Corresponding Secretary for first putting the yearbook on disc. Copies of the Yearbook will be given to all officers, each chapter and the PPAs. There are a few extra copies for sale at \$5.00 each. Marie thanked everyone for providing the information she requested to compile the Yearbook. She asked that we fill out a change of information form, which was placed in the chapter folders, if we have any addition information or corrections. Maria also reported that the cost to publish the yearbook was slightly over the \$200 that we budgeted and we should consider increasing the amount budgeted for next year.

Treasurer-Ginger Yopp

Ginger reported on her exciting summer with Sun Trust Bank. After much work and a great deal of patience we now have a checking and savings account. She reported that she wrote check #1150 for \$35.00 to IC for dues but the dues are actually \$40.00 and the

check was out of sequence. She mailed a second check ,#1001, for \$5.00 to cover the additional owed.

Parliamentarian-Nicole Lewis

No report

Jr. Past President-Beth Sherron

Beth Sherron commented on the recent hurricanes and the wild fires in California and their impact on our sisters. The IC executive board has been very proactive and raised the Disaster Fund to \$5,000 and shortened the form for the special Katrina Disaster Fund. They have already distributed checks for \$75,000 to assist 15 sisters; only one from Louisiana at this point. As of Wednesday, 10 ESA sisters are in harms way due to the fires in California. She is encouraging everyone to donate to the Disaster Fund as soon as possible to help our sisters. She has challenged everyone to count the number of shoes in their closets and donate .50 per pair. She also stated that if you want to send money to the Special Katrina Fund, you can send it directly to Coleen Cape, IC Jr. Past President. This would get it to them faster. Please send Beth an email or note to report the amount of money donated so she can keep track of the state's donations. She thanked Alpha Chi and Beta Kappa for making donations to the Disaster Fund.

President: Lynne Rightmyer

Lynne told about her busy summer preparing for the newsletter and the meeting. She read a poem that chronicled her adventures since becoming our state president. She also recognized the following individuals and chapters for awards:

SERC-IC certificate, Virginia 1st place Easter Seals money raised

Beta Delta, Easter Seals 3rd place money raised

SERC-IC certificate, Delta Kappa, 1st place money raised

IC certificate, Delta Kappa, 3rd place, most hours per member

Publicity, Alpha Chi, 1st place

New Chapter Sponsor Award, Beverly Scott

SERC certificate, Cartridges for Kids Award, Alpha Chi

SERC Cartridges for Kids, Delta Sigma

IC supporting Easter Seals Service Award, Judy Williams

Spirit Award for Creativity, Beth Sherron (Beth and her father made the award)

Reports: The "Willing To Do Anything Heroes"- Appointed Board

Katrina Cooke-Circle of Life

Katrina traveled to Memphis last spring for the Circle of Life training. She said it was a wonderful opportunity to see the hospital and to understand how the \$\$\$ we raise is put to good use. She came away inspired BUT also with a feeling that ST JUDE is fiscally responsible with the \$\$\$ we raise for them. She asked that we send in the booked event forms and completed event forms to the Circle of Life Office and to her.

<http://www.esaintl.com/member/bookedevent.cfm>

Our Circle of Life Total as found on the State Coordinator Report from 6/1/05 – 8/31/05 is: 296,404,.41. The events included:

IC Challenge – Alpha Delta

Poker Run – Alpha Omicron
Dream Home – Alpha Xi
Donation – Beta Delta
Dream Home – Beta Kappa
Memphis Marathon – Beta Sigma

NEW CHALLENGE: 7.5 Million in 5 years

At the 2004 International Council Convention in Little Rock, AR, Epsilon Sigma Alpha accepted a wonderful new challenge to have another floor at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital dedicated in our name. This "naming opportunity" challenges ESA to raise \$7.5 million in cash donations within the next five years. Events that will be credited to naming another ESA floor at

St. Jude include the following*:

- Monthly donations received from the Circle of Life Office
- Million Mile Marathon events
- Volunteer Service Center events
- Net proceeds from Captured for Kids events in which ESA members work

The Hospital floor that is available for naming is the 8th floor of the Integrated Research Center. Research currently being performed on the floor includes:

- Group B streptococcal sepsis
- HIV vaccine development
- Bacterial effects on human cell membranes
- Bacterial lipid metabolism as an antibiotic target
- Viral entry into human cells
- Synergy between bacterial and viral infections, especially influenza
- Bacterial effects on neurons

St. Jude Heroes – Run in Conjunction w/ Memphis Marathon

½ Marathon – Walk

Chance to see the hospital

Raise \$\$\$

Registrations is on-line <http://www.stjudemarathon.org/>

Quilt of Dreams

Sponsored by Hancock Fabrics

Designs fabric patterns inspired by the kids @ St. Jude

Hancock Fabrics donates 30 cents for each yard sold

Quilters use the fabric & the dreams of St. Jude patients to create quilts

These quilts are turned in to Hancock stores to be judged for a national contest

Many quilts are given to St Jude Children

This Year the Fundraiser has been expanded:

15 Locations were targeted host a showcase (couldn't have dreamhome)

Quilts are auctioned off at a minimum of \$150.00 each

HOWEVER:

All other ESA chapters not hosting a Showcase in their communities can request 10 quilts from the Circle of Life Office to sell at existing local fund-raising events such as craft shows or silent auctions. (Order forms will soon be available in the Member Center, a secure section especially for our members.) These chapters can help build the Showcase program by creating new events or partnering with established events to raise dollars for the Kids. These quilts are also to be sold for a minimum of \$150 each.

HURRICANE KATRINA UPDATE

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to Accept Newly Diagnosed Pediatric Cancer Patients in Gulf Coast Area

Memphis, Tenn. – (September 12, 2005) – St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, in cooperation with Tulane University and New Orleans Children's Hospital, has agreed to handle new cases of pediatric cancer diagnosed in the devastated Gulf Coast region in addition to continuing to provide care to non-St. Jude patients whose treatment has been disrupted.

With both Tulane University's hospital and New Orleans Children's Hospital unable to provide care because of damage and flooding, more than 100 pediatric cancer patients from those institutions are now being treated or evaluated at St. Jude locations. Newly diagnosed patients from the area will be brought to Memphis as St. Jude patients until these medical facilities are able to provide care.

Most of those patients are being seen at St. Jude's affiliate clinic at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A dozen have been admitted for treatment at the St. Jude affiliate at Louisiana State University, Department of Pediatrics, in Shreveport. Two dozen are being treated at St. Jude's main campus in Memphis. Medical staff in Memphis will provide all specialized care that cannot be provided at the two affiliate clinics to any oncology patients displaced by Katrina.

St. Jude is also trying to locate some of its own patients from the region who have not been heard from since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast area. In all, St. Jude has over 200 patients from the area devastated by the hurricane.

Chief Medical Officer Joseph Mirro, MD, who spent a week in Baton Rouge helping direct emergency treatment efforts, said the Baton Rouge clinic has been doubled in size to accommodate the influx of new patients. St. Jude currently has 16 staff members on site in Baton Rouge helping to provide medical care. Working with them are doctors from Tulane and New Orleans Children's Hospital. Mirro said medical staff forced to evacuate the Gulf Coast will be hired as necessary to help support the ongoing efforts in Baton Rouge.

"We will continue to provide staff from Memphis as long as they are needed," Mirro said. "St. Jude will be working cooperatively with the institutions in the devastated area to ensure that no pediatric cancer patient in need of medical treatment falls through the cracks. Our only concern is to ensure that these vulnerable patients and families – who already have so much to deal with – get the best care possible."

Providing treatment has proven to be a challenge because many of the patients who were forced to evacuate arrived with no medical records. In addition to building an infrastructure to handle the patients in Baton Rouge – computers, phones, land-lines, etc. – staff from St. Jude and its fund-raising arm, ALSAC – are using resources to provide food, money and other necessities to the hurricane victims. As is its policy, St. Jude will cover all medical costs not covered by insurance, and will cover all costs for families without insurance.

Families of children with hematological diseases treated in the affected area, including those of hematological/oncology patients seen at Tulane University, who need assistance in arranging treatment for their children, should contact the Baton Rouge clinic at (225) 763-6337 or the St. Jude Physician Referral Line at (866) 278-5833.

Beverley Wright-Convention Co-Chair (2006)

Beverley reported that the Blue Ridge District Council Chapters are very excited about hosting the 2006 VSC Convention on May 19-21 at the newly renovated Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center in the heart of the historic district in downtown Staunton. Registration forms were placed in the chapter folders. They ask that the chapter presidents ensure that each member of the chapter gets a copy. The room rates are \$139 per night plus tax. (single, double, triple or quad) Parking will be available in the attached parking garage for \$4.00 a day. Registration has been set at \$110.00 for women and guests and \$75.00 for men. They are getting this information out early so that everyone will have plenty of time to “stash away” what is needed to go to the convention. Beverley will also be sending a copy of the registration form via email for all chapter presidents, VSC board member, and PPAs. She gave a brief history of the hotel and listed the amenities available its guests. She included information about the local happenings in Staunton. She concluded by giving a summary of the weekend events including the chance of meeting a ghost at the Friday night mixer, the Friendship of Flowers at the Saturday PPA Luncheon, candlelight and roses at the Saturday banquet, and the awards presentation at the Sunday morning brunch. There will also be a silent auction on Saturday night.

Gaynell Krista-Easter Seals

Gaynell reported on the success of the Jazz Festival in Richmond. Susan Caldwell explained the events and the support offered by ESA at the festival. She asked for volunteers for next year. They are still working on a fixed weekend for the yearly event. It was also reported the Beta Tau worked an Easter Seals event in Fredericksburg on September 10, 2005. Gaynell reported that the rededication ceremony took place at Camp Easter Seals on July 24, 2005. Shelby Hodges and Ginger Yopp attended the ceremony and said it was nice. A wish list for Easter Seals was placed in the chapter folders. Easter Seals has been helping with the victims (patients with disabilities) of Hurricane Katrina.

Doris Hood- ESA Foundation

Doris attended the Foundation Workshop at IC Convention and there is some exciting news this year. Students can now apply for 1, 2, or 3, scholarships. In previous years students were limited to one scholarship application. This will be more work for the

processors but will give the applicant a much better chance of winning a scholarship. I have placed applications in the chapter folders, along with a letter explaining the changes. If there are any questions, please contact me. This year there will be two graduate scholarships available in the amount of \$7,500.00 each. These scholarships are open to any major – any school.

Last year there was a problem with turn-around-checks being cashed in a timely manner. The rule now is any check that is not cashed within 120 days of the date the check was written will be cancelled and the funds will be placed in the Foundation General Fund. Please let the recipients know that the check must be cashed within that time frame. The People Helping People Program was phased out at the end of IC Convention. The reason is that there is now so much information available on the internet.

Cindy Maxwell – Beta Kappa and Marie LaDuke, Beta Sigma were recognized for becoming ESA Foundation Life members this year.

Doris gave out some Plateaus of Achievement. They are as follows:

Bronze Founder - \$250 - \$ 499

Delta Kappa Chapter

Cindy Maxwell – Beta Kappa

Jean Bowman-Mullikin – Alpha Xi

Beth Sherron – Alpha Delta

Silver Founder - \$500 - \$999

Cindy Maxwell – Beta Kappa

Pearl Founder - \$1,000 - \$4,999

Sigma Chi Chapter

VSC Past Presidents Auxiliary

Cindy Maxwell – Beta Kappa

Ruby Founder - \$5,000 – 14,999

Alpha Xi Chapter

Cindy Maxwell – Beta Kappa

Sapphire Founder - \$15,000 - \$24,999

Virginia State Council

Gold Founder - \$25,000 - \$34,999

Virginia State Council

Bonnie Feldhauser-Historian

No report

Brenda Orebaugh-Leadership Chair

Brenda thanked everyone who attended the Leadership Conference. She received 67 registrations by mail and 2 walk-ins. She thanked the presenters and asked for feedback to pass on to next year's chairman.

Marie LaDuke for Jennifer McClennan-Philanthropic

Jennifer thanked the chapters who reported their good deeds. She reminded everyone that her email address is still mcclellan10@cox.net. A copy of the philanthropic report form was placed in the chapter folders. Please remember to report monthly. She also thanked everyone for their prayers and well wishes for the arrival of her new baby, Michael. As stated earlier, you can view pictures of the family at www.mcclellans.com.

Margaret “P’Nut” Schools-Scrapbook/Photo Album

Lynne has requested a photo album this year instead of a scrapbook. P'Nut asked that the chapters send lots of pictures to help in her endeavor. She asked that we don't wait until the last minute. She would like to have pictures of the installation so she can get started.

Jean Mullikin-State Project

Jean reminded the chapters to include special fund raising projects in their calendars for the VSC Project. This includes both ASK and Special Love. Information about ASK was placed in the chapter folders. She noted that the ASK newsletter includes information about Special Love and their upcoming activities. They work very close together in many ways to help the children and families of both organizations. Jean also placed forms for the Dot Harcum State Project Award in the chapter folders. She asked that we submit one of these forms with every check you send to her during the year. Please remember to make the checks out to the VSC State Project Award. She also recognized several chapters who have sent her checks. Peggy Thompson was asked to give a brief report about Camp Fantastic. This camp is held each year in Front Royal. Delta Rho is in charge of the Monday evening carnival for the campers.

Amanda Wright-Workshop Coordinator

Amanda asked that each chairman who is preparing a workshop to have their material to her no later than April 15, 2006.

Lynne asked if there were anymore reports to be given at this time. The following ladies gave reports:

Diane McLane-Lamplight Editor

Diane reported that the Lamplighter was under way but not ready for the Leadership Conference. She said we could still send her articles by October 10, 2005. She included a "sneak preview" for everyone to read in the chapter folders. She also reported that she has opened a checking account at First Market Bank to handle the Lamplighter subscriptions and expenses. Beth Sherron has graciously agreed to make the copies for the Lamplighter to keep expenses low.

The following are the renewed deadlines for submissions for subscriptions and articles for the 3 issues:

Fall issue: September 12, 2005

Please send events occurring from Oct.-Jan. for the calendar and don't forget your Heroes.

Winter issue December 2, 2005

Please send events occurring from Jan-March for the calendar and don't forget your Heroes.

Spring issue: February 24, 2006

Please send events occurring from March-June (or beyond) for the calendar and don't forget your Heroes.

Article can be sent to:

dianemclane@comcast.net (word format preferred). You can also mail your report to her.

Sherry Flesher-Finance Committee

Sherry thanked everyone for their support and generous nature. The June Chinese Auction raised \$217.00. She encouraged everyone to continue to purchase tickets and

support the VSC. The spring meeting will be in March so please bring a “Springish” item for the auction.

Sherry Flesher sent \$658 and a 13 inch braid to Locks of Love.

Judi Daren presented Lynne a check from the Richmond Area chapter that sold Ducks on the James to help with her presidential costs.

Lynne asked the appointed board members who did not give a report to stand and introduce themselves.

New Business: Lynne discussed each of the following items with the membership:

SERC Officers:

The Executive Board approved that we dispense with the reading of the candidates for SERC offices. It was moved by the Executive Board that the voting for the candidates for SERC offices be left to the discretion of the delegates in attendance at SERC. There was no discussion and the motion was carried.

SERC Locations:

The following locations were chosen for future SERC Conferences:

2006-Springdale, AK at the Holiday Inn Convention Center

2007-Charlotte, NC at the Marriott Executive Park Hotel

SERC Fundraisers:

There will be a raffle for a one carat diamond heart necklace at SERC. Each chapter folder has a copy of a ticket page. Please feel free to make copies and sell. Just make sure you get the tickets to someone who is attending SERC to put them into the drawing.

They will also have a silent “Old Purse” auction during the conferences. The PPAs are sending the 5 items for the Chinese auction. Lynne also asked who would be attending SERC in Tampa this year.

SERC Scrapbook:

Nancy Keckmaster has requested state pictures, especially installation pictures with people identified ASAP.

Jonquil Society:

This new branch of ESA was formed to recognize members who have a continued commitment to membership growth. In addition to wearing a distinctive yellow hat, there are many other benefits to belonging to this part of ESA. Check the website for further details.

Hope for Heroes

Information was placed in the chapter folders about this IC project. The idea is to send a care package to at least one U.S. serviceman or woman by Veteran’s Day. The directions and lists of acceptable items are included. IC hopes to have 100% participation in this project.

Announcements: Lynne presented the following announcements:

The president's newsletter, "Straight from the Heart will be sent after SERC. If you have announcements you wish to have included, please notify Lynne by November 15.

SERC will be held Nov. 4-5 at the Tampa Airport Hilton in Tampa, FL. Registration forms were placed in the chapter folders.

The VSC spring meeting will be held March 25, 2006 at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton.

Lynne reminded everyone to pick up and sign for the chapter folders. There was also a reminder to pick up the VSC yearbooks.

Adjournment:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 A.M. with all joining hands for the Closing Ritual.

The Chinese Auction was held immediately following the Closing Ritual.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheen Campbell Childress
VSC Recording Secretary

Approved:	Sandy Reed	Date: October 31, 2005
Approved:	Beverley Wright	Date: November 5, 2005