

## **Virginia State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha Minutes of September 23, 2023 Meeting**

The VSC Fall General Board Meeting was called to order by VSC President, Priscilla Browning, at 10:03 a.m. on September 23, 2023 at the Montgomery Hall Parks and Recreation Center in Staunton, Virginia.

Priscilla verified that all voting members had a voting card, gave instructions to silence cell phones, and led the attendees in the opening ritual.

Shelby Hodges gave the Chaplain's message regarding life lessons learned from Noah's Ark and led us in prayer.

Priscilla welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting. She noted that we will be lighting and sharing an ESA candle this year with our meetings held in Staunton, Midlothian and concluding with convention in Harrisonburg, VA. Priscilla expressed appreciation to the members for taking time away from our lives to attend the meetings. She encouraged VSC members to share the ESA candle with chapter members and others we meet along the way.

The Credentials Committee, Mindy Boyd, reported:

Chapters on Roll:	16	Officer Votes:	7
Chapters Present:	14	Delegate Votes:	11
Members Present:	20	TOTAL VOTES:	18
Officers Present:	7		
DESA's:	0		
Guests:	0		
MALs:	0		
Total Attendance:	27		

(Full Report Filed)

A quorum was confirmed present, as according to the VSC Bylaws.

Priscilla stated the Rules of the Meeting are a part of our Standing Rules and do not need to be read at each meeting.

Priscilla introduced the Head Table, her Candle Lighters, followed by the Appointed Board and Special Committee members, her Candle Tapers, followed by the VSC PPA members, her Candle Bearers. The VSC 23-24 Chapter Presidents were introduced as Priscilla's Candle Flames and were recognized as the anchors that directly influence the greater membership.

Katrina Saunders, Corresponding Secretary 22-23, reported that the VSC 2023 Minutes Approval Committee consisting of Judy Williams and Carol Campbell had approved the minutes of the Spring VSC Convention. Judy and Carol were not present at the meeting. Priscilla dismissed this committee.

The Minutes Approval Committee for the VSC 2023 Fall Meeting are Beth Sherron, Alpha Delta, and Lou Ann Wyer, Beta Kappa.

Jenny Brunelle, Corresponding Secretary, reported no outside correspondence to share. Jenny did share an email written by the VSC Chaplain, Shelby Hodges.

Financial Report: Stephanie Hess, VSC Treasurer, presented the financial report summarized below:

Checking Account

Balance Forwarded from 5/20/2023	\$2,870.72
Deposits (convention profit, dues)	\$849.34
Disbursements:	\$236.80
Balance on Hand	\$3,483.26

Savings Account

Balance Forwarded from 5/20/2023	\$4,830.13
Deposits (interest)	0.16
Balance on Hand	\$4,830.29

The report will be filed for audit.

The 2022-2023 Audit Committee consisting of Shelby Hodges and Gaynell Krista reported the VSC Treasury account, VSC State Project account and the VSC 2023 State Convention account had all been reviewed and were found to be in order. Shelby reported the committee would like to recommend that the current Parliamentarian review the deadlines for the above mentioned audits. She noted the VSC Treasurer books are ongoing; however, the convention and state project books are completely clearing their accounts and will begin anew the next year. This requires a longer time period to complete and get in the hands of the auditors. Beverley Wright suggested looking at what the audit committee needs to see and including that in the VSC guidebook. Sandy Reed noted that the cost of mailing materials back and forth needs to be taken into account. Priscilla thanked and dismissed the committee.

Stephanie Hess, VSC Treasurer, also presented the VSC Proposed Budget for 2023-2024. Having been approved by the Executive Board, no second was required. With no discussion; the motion to approve the 2023-2024 VSC Budget was carried.

## Officer Reports

**First Vice President, Marie LaDuke**, reported she is looking for many good people to fill offices on the 2024-2025 Executive and General Boards. She will be calling, texting and emailing with her requests and asks that you do answer her. She is hoping to have representation from chapters across the state.

**Second Vice President, Bev Scott**, shared information from the IC Membership Campaign, *The Power of Us*. A flier was included in each chapter folder outlining how to participate in this campaign. Bev also asked Ruth Clatterbuck, Delta Rho President, to describe Delta Rho's street adoption project. Priscilla Browning, VSC

President, added she had attended the Hope for Heroes workshop at IC Convention. She spoke of the Defenders of Freedom Program.

**Recording Secretary, Katrina Saunders**, had no report.

**Treasurer, Stephanie Hess**, - no additional report

**Parliamentarian, Nicole Lewis**, requested that any potential bylaw changes be sent to her for discussion at the Spring Meeting.

**Jr. Past President, Beverley Wright**, reported the following:

- Convention for 23-24 will be hosted by the Richmond area chapters in Harrisonburg and that a courtesy bid for the 24-25 convention has been received by the VA Beach chapters.
- Beverley worked with Stephanie Hess on the budget during the summer.
- Beverley distributed copies of the Outstanding Chapter President Leadership award form to the chapter folders. It is also available on the VA-ESA website.
- If a Chapter President's workshop is needed at convention; Beverley will work with chapter presidents to ensure the topics are informative and meaningful.
- Beverley is asking members consider donating an amount equal to their birthdate to the Disaster Fund. A shout out to Doris Hood was given as the first member to donate. Any checks should be made out to the ESA Disaster Fund.

**President, Priscilla Browning**, reported on her experience at the ESA IC Convention. The message was The Power of Us. Priscilla highlighted membership programs that can be used to rebuild ESA. She encouraged the VSC members to remain positive and to recruit younger members.

### **Genera/Appointed Board Reports**

**Association of the Arts, Theresa Morris**- no report.

**2022-2023 Audit Committee, Sheen Childress and Sue Foy (no chair)**- no report

**Audio/Visual Tech(s), Nicole Lewis** - no report

**Awards Director, Lisa Hale** - no report

**Budget Committee, Stephanie Hess** - no report

**Chaplain, Shelby Hodges**, no additional report

**Credentials** report was filed by Mindy Boyd.

**Disaster Fund, Beverley Wright** - no additional report

**Easter Seals, Ginger Hodges** - no report

**Educational Director, Pam Smith**, reported she is looking forward to receiving reports of all the learning that is occurring around the state. She stated those reports should be emailed to her at [gogopam1@msn.com](mailto:gogopam1@msn.com). She will acknowledge receipt of your email via a return email. Pam also noted her physical address will be updated in the VSC yearbook and reports can be mailed that way as well. Members were reminded the Barbara Midkiff Educational Award report form is available on the VSC Website.

**ESA Foundation Counselor, Beth Sherron**, asked members to ensure their email addresses are correct on the Foundation membership portal. An election will occur in December for alignment purposes since the Foundation is changing to a calendar based fiscal year. A link to the contribution form is on the ESA Foundation website. A foundation workshop regarding Endowments and Scholarships will occur on November 2, 2023 at 8:30 Eastern Time for interested members. Beth reminded VSC members that scholarship applications need to be submitted by February 1, 2024. Members were asked to contact the schools from the year before and to let Beth know of any schools in need of communication from her. Beth mentioned Prince William County as a school system that has not had scholarship applications submitted in many years. Members were encouraged to become Foundation members on a yearly or lifetime status.

**ESA for St. Jude Coordinator, Susan Caldwell**, filed a full report which included the following:

St. Jude Monies Reveal at IC Convention, thanks to all of the VSC members who traveled to Grapevine, TX for the IC Convention and for posting such great pictures on Facebook. Here are the amazing totals for 2022-2023:

- Virginia total--\$902,816—Now don't be concerned that this total does not match the number from the VSC Convention in Harrisonburg because the date range for the two events is different.
- ESA Yearly total--\$19,826,651
- ESA Lifetime Total--\$361,279,730
- Danny's Dream Level for the Virginia State Council--\$16,000,000

Susan recognized members who staffed the ticket offices for the 2023 Dream Home Campaigns. She reported the following totals:

- Hampton Roads--\$1,450,000 raised
- Richmond--\$1,300,000 raised
- Central Virginia--\$1,200,000 raised

Susan shared that Natalie Dodge, a local child, is on the August page of the St. Jude calendar. Susan asked Lou Ann Wyer to speak regarding the **St. Jude Walk/Run Virginia Team**. Lou Ann reported the Virginia Team would walk at Oak Grove Lake in Chesapeake on September 30. The team had a goal of \$1500. (Note from Katrina - Last check on the St. Jude Walk app showed Team ESA Virginia with a total of \$1,070 raised).

**Finance Committee, Brenda Orebaugh**, reported that she still has envelopes and will report the total at the end of the meeting. Total raised from Lucky Numbers was \$185.00

**Historian, Sue Stone**, - no report.

**Hope for Heroes, Bev Scott** reported the following:

Bev announced the VSC membership had raised a total of \$2,444.00 for the Tunnels to Tower project. Our goal was exceeded by \$200.00. Bev shared a story about US Marine Corporal, Dennis Veater, who lost his life in the line of duty and the work that T2T has done to assist his fiancée and son. The members were encouraged to donate to T2T in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Bev noted Sheen Childress made the

first donation last year in memory of her father. An acknowledgement was sent to Sheen's mom, Fay Campbell.

**Lamplighter Editor, Katrina Saunders**, - no report.

**Nominating Committee, Priscilla Browning**, - The nominating committee will consist of Marie LaDuke, Priscilla Browning and Bev Scott.

**Philanthropic Director, Susan Graham**, - no report.

**PPA Leadership Chair, Brenda Orebaugh** - no report. Beth Sherron noted the PPA Bazaar made a total of \$513.00. Lou Ann Wyer asked that the members stay after the meeting for a picture.

**Scrapbook/Memory Book Keeper, Tammy James** - no report. Tammy asked Lou Ann Wyer to present Beverley Wright, 22-23 VSC President, a memory book of her time as VSC President.

**SERC Director, Brenda Bowersox**, - no report.

**Social Director, Sandy Reed**, reported five chapters sent entries for the Lisa Files Social Award during the 22-23 year. She is hoping to increase that number this year. Sandy reminded members that socials don't need to be complicated but should include food. Members were also reminded that a social report only needs to be submitted for the yearly events by April 15th for the award calendar year of April 1 through March 31st.

**State Projects Director, Beth Sherron**, reported that we will continue to support ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation and Special Love. She announced last year a total of \$3,627.92 was raised for these two projects. Each organization was sent a check for \$1,813.96. Beth will be making another quilt to raffle off at convention. She will have pictures and raffle tickets at the March meeting. Beth reported that ASK is requesting groups to adopt a family at Christmas. Alpha Delta and Alpha Nu have done this in the past. Please let Beth know if you are interested in adopting a family.

**Webmaster, Lou Ann Wyer**, Lou Ann asked for members to contact her directly for any changes, additions or error corrections on the website.

**2023 VSC Convention Chair, Beth Sherron and Pam Smith** - reported the following:

Due to the cost of holding the convention in Richmond, the committee decided to contact Hotel Madison with the result of Hotel Madison agreeing to work with the VSC for our May 2024 convention. It will be hosted by Alpha Delta, Alpha Nu, Beta Sigma and Theta Mu on May 17 - 29, 2024. Full registration is \$155, guest registration is \$80 with room rates at \$144 per night. The theme is Celebrating Virginia.

### **Unfinished Business**

Priscilla presented the Danny's Dream Award to Susan Caldwell to commend Virginia for reaching the next million dollar mark of \$16 million in giving to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Lou Ann Wyer was presented a certificate for Virginia's Second Place award in Easter Seals State Hours.

### **New Business**

A motion was moved that the election of SERC officers will be left to the discretion of the members in attendance at the SERC conference. This motion was carried with no opposition.

IC Convention 2025 will be hosted by SERC. VSC will be responsible for the installation and banquet.

Beverley Wright presented Priscilla Browning with a U.S. Flag that had been flown over the US Capitol Building on May 20, 2023. This flag was presented instead of the Full Crown Pin which is typically given to the incoming VSC President. Priscilla already has a Full Crown Pin and requested the flag instead.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 and was followed by the Closing Ritual.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina Saunders  
VSC Recording Secretary  
2023-2024