

# *The Chatter Box*

*Issue #4*

*March 2025*



## ***Greetings from Marie ...***

Spring is in the air hopefully after a crazy It had been a long time since we last met. I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

I have a little homework for each of you and your chapter before coming to the Spring Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We will begin a discussion concerning what the IC Long Range Planning Committee is working on. They have requested input from every ESA member to help them make decisions about the future of ESA.

They would like to hear about what is important to our state and your chapter/individuals and want everyone to share their thoughts.

Do you want to suggest keeping certain things in place or changing others? I am asking everyone to put your ideas on paper and come to this meeting prepared to begin this discussion. I will be happy to forward your ideas to the committee if you send them to me in an email following the meeting with the subject line "IC Planning Committee Ideas".

The discussion may need to continue at our State Convention. Some examples mentioned in the last State President's Zoom Meeting included: doing away with the opening and closing rituals or changing wording to be more inclusive, using the words of Education, Service and Association instead of ESA, referring to "good friends, good works, and good times" and using the term service organization not sorority (which we haven't been doing since men became part of our group).

For the good of our organization, please give this some serious thought and come up with suggestions to be shared starting at our Spring VSC meeting.

Another point brought up is that in order to be a member of ESA and receive the benefits of belonging, such as, the Disaster Fund, individuals must pay their IC dues. Apparently some states and chapters are not wanting to do so. One of the uses for our dues is to fund IC Reps for travel to our State and Regional Conventions.

There are a lot of issues being looked at by Headquarters and the new staff. It will take time for improvement but they are working on them. See you in about 3 weeks. Safe travels,

Marie



## **Reminders for the Spring Meeting**

\*All officer reports should be emailed to Stephanie Hess by March 15<sup>th</sup>

\*All officer reports will be on the agenda unless I am notified that you won't be giving one

\*Don't forget to bring clear glass wine bottles for decorations for the 2025 IC Convention

\*The Theme for Lucky Numbers is **"Anything Green"**

Bring your old electronics to be donated to Tech4Troops

\*Let me know if your chapter has any information you would like to share at the meeting

\*If you are coming on Friday and want to meet for dinner, let me know by March 15<sup>th</sup> and arrangements will be made at a restaurant

### From Easter Seals Chairperson Deana Renn...

Laurie Nederveen, Easter Seals Director, Easter Seals Regional Office in Raleigh, NC has provided information about an exciting event to be held in Norfolk in March.

Laurie would like for VSC members to attend the Chef Fest in Norfolk (Invitation Attached) Any tickets would be comped by Easter Seals. She just needs to know who can attend so that she knows how many tickets to set aside. Contact Deana ASAP at [deanarenn@gmail.com](mailto:deanarenn@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE INAUGURAL CHEF FEST TASTING EVENT**

# Chef Fest

A TASTE OF JOY

Join Chef Fest Chair, Eddie Lee, and top culinary talents from Hampton Roads for a tasting event featuring mouthwatering bites, desserts, wine & spirits alongside a silent & live auction!

**MARCH 12, 2025**  
**6:30 PM**

HOSTED BY  
TOWN POINT CLUB

INSIDE THE WORLD TRADE CENTER  
101 W MAIN ST SUITE 300, NORFOLK, VA 23510

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR DONATE!

**DEX imaging** **CareSource** **CREST**  
FOODSERVICE EQUIPMENT

**NUCOR** **MIKE & SANDY WATERS** **The Smile Group**  
HERTFORD COUNTY JAMES A. SMITH & ASSOCIATES  
FAMILY AND COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Proceeds from Chef Fest will support Easterseals PORT Health's "Culinary Connections" program. These innovative classes empower individuals with disabilities, mental health challenges, and foster care youth by teaching culinary skills, nutritional literacy, communication and coping strategies in a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen located in Hampton Roads.



#### PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

TOWN POINT CLUB **The Stockpot**



More restaurants to be added

#### EVENT PARTNERS



### Announcing our REPS for Convention

2025 VSC Convention SERC Rep is Laura Gnewuch from North Carolina. Laura's email address is [laura.gnewuch@gmail.com](mailto:laura.gnewuch@gmail.com)

2025 VSC Convention IC Rep is the IC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Celeste Webb from Illinois. Celeste's email address is: [webbfam@consolidated.net](mailto:webbfam@consolidated.net)

Please send them an email of welcome.

### "The Gifts of ESA to You & to Others"



## SAVE THE DATE!



### VSC Convention

The Hotel Madison

Harrisonburg, VA

May 30 - June 1, 2025

### "Don't Worry, Beach Happy"

We are excited to announce the upcoming VSC Convention at The Hotel Madison! We hope to see you there as we have planned a weekend of fellowship, fun and recognition.

In this Lamplighter you will find the flyer/form for a **Shell Fundraiser** that we will be doing at the VSC Spring meeting. Each numbered shell for \$5.00 buys you a chance at ½ off your Convention registration fee! Buy as many as you would like until the shells are gone. Sales can be done in advance or at the Spring meeting. The winner will be selected at the Spring Meeting. Good Luck!

The **2025 Convention Registration form** can be found in this Lamplighter too! While the price is slightly higher than last year, this is solely in response to the increase in food costs.

The **Convention Ad form** is available here as well. Please use this to send your *Congrats* to your new incoming Executive Board, *Thanks* for those members stepping down from their positions, or *advertisements* from your favorite businesses. All monies help defer costs of the convention.

#### For your early planning:

**Registration/check-in** at the Hotel Madison will be open May 30<sup>th</sup> from 2-5PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, near the parking garage entrance.

The **Executive Board meeting** is scheduled from 3-3:45PM in the Blue Ridge Room.

The **PPA meeting** is scheduled from 3:45-4:30PM in the Blue Ridge Room.

We can't wait to see you in May. Make your hotel reservations now so you can be assured a room. Send in your registration forms and encourage all members in your chapter to join you as this is a convention you do not want to miss!

# Don't Worry, Beach Happy!



## 2025 Virginia State Council Convention Epsilon Sigma Alpha International

May 30 – June 1, 2025

The Hotel Madison & Shenandoah  
Valley Conference Center  
710 S. Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
540-564-0200

Room Rate: \$144.00 + tax

Make reservations directly with the hotel under **ESA Virginia State Council Convention** or online at [The Hotel Madison block for VSC Convention](#)

**Block of rooms expire on April 28, 2025**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter & # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-member/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Current VSC Elected Officer  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter President  
\_\_\_\_\_ First Convention

\_\_\_\_\_ Appointed Officers  
\_\_\_\_\_ Voting Delegate  
\_\_\_\_\_ Member-At-Large

Convention Registration	Member	\$165.00	\$ _____
	Non-member/Guest	\$ 90.00	\$ _____
	Postmarked after April 28, 2025	\$ 30.00	\$ _____
	<b>Total Enclosed:</b>		\$ _____

Any form postmarked after May 15 or on-site registrations will not be accepted unless the attendee has given the convention chair 7 days prior notice (May 23). Cost will be an additional \$30 (original fee + \$10) for both member and guest. The registration fee for members includes 4 meals (Fri Reception, Sat Lunch, Sat Dinner, Sun Brunch). The registration fee for non-member/guest includes 2 meals (Friday Night and Saturday Banquet). Food Allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

For questions, please contact:

Deana Renn: 757-287-2143 [deanarenn@gmail.com](mailto:deanarenn@gmail.com)

Lou Ann Wyer: 757-621-1099 [l.wyer@cox.net](mailto:l.wyer@cox.net)

Tammy James: 757-650-9482 [tamjames3@gmail.com](mailto:tamjames3@gmail.com)

Make check payable to  
**2025 VSC Convention,**  
Mail to: **Lou Ann Wyer**  
**209 South Fir Avenue**  
**Virginia Beach, VA 23452**



## VSC Convention Fundraiser

The Hotel Madison

Harrisonburg, VA

May 30 - June 1, 2025

*"Don't Worry, Beach Happy"*

**Win a 50% discount to your convention registration fee (worth \$83)**

**\$5.00/shell**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of shells: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ amount: \_\_\_\_\_

***Shells can be purchased in advance or in person at the spring meeting.***

Shells are numbered. Each shell number sold will be put into the fundraiser raffle.

The winning shell will be selected at the VSC Spring Meeting.

Contact Tammy James at 757-650-9482 or [tamjames3@gmail.com](mailto:tamjames3@gmail.com) for advance sales.

**\$5.00/shell**

**Checks should be made out to 2025 VSC Convention**

For Fundraiser Admin only

Shell #:\_\_\_\_\_ Shell #:\_\_\_\_\_ Shell #:\_\_\_\_\_ Shell #:\_\_\_\_\_

***We are bringing the Beach to Harrisonburg!***





### **Ads for the VSC Convention Brochure**

If you would like to purchase a page to support your candidate, or tell your chapter President what a great job she did this year, or just to make someone's day, we have a place for you to do that!

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 a full color page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$40 for a half page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 for a quarter page.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your artwork ready to print to Lou Ann Wyer at [l.wyer@cox.net](mailto:l.wyer@cox.net) no later than April 28, 2025.  
Thank you for your support on this project.



## **Corporate Sponsorship for the Virginia State Convention of ESA**

Corporate Sponsorships are available for the Virginia State Convention

\$1,000.00 Gold Sponsor – Provide your own banner or provide the artwork and WE will provide the banner (no larger than 3' x 6') displayed at convention, your advertisement on Sponsor's table, and Full Page ad in convention brochure

\$500.00 Silver Sponsor – Provide your own banner or provide the artwork and WE will provide the banner (no larger than 2' x 4") displayed at convention, your advertisement on Sponsor's table and ½ page ad in convention brochure

\$250.00 Bronze Sponsor – includes your advertisement on Sponsor's table and ¼ page ad in convention brochure

Corporate name:

Address:

Contact information:

Please provide your banner or artwork, ready to print, to Ginny Hatchell. She can be reached at 757-739-0022, [ginnyhatchell@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyhatchell@gmail.com) no later than April 15, 2025. If a different advertisement is to be provided in convention brochure, please supply that as well.

Thank you for your support on this project.