



The Helping Hands Gazette

KATRINA SAUNDERS, PRESIDENT

I promise this will be a much shorter newsletter than the last one! There is information to share about our Fall Leadership, SERC Convention and the 2026 IC Convention in Norfolk. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Leadership in Richmond. Mindy Boyd has worked hard to put together our program for the day. The registration form is included with this newsletter. Beta Kappa has put together a St. Jude Walk for after Leadership. It will give us a chance to stretch our legs after a long day of learning. I'm hearing rumors that we will have an opportunity to meet up for dinner as well so we will have time to visit and socialize with each other.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL INFORMATION

Our IC President, Celeste Webb, will be attending Australia's convention next May. She is putting together a trip for anyone who wants to join. Reach out to Celeste at webbfam@consolidated.net if you are interested. The trip is 4/27/26 to 5/11/26.

SAVE THE DATES

• 2025

- August 31st—Leadership Registration Deadline
- September 27—Leadership in Richmond
- September 27—PPA Meeting after Leadership. (Please forward agenda items to Lou Ann)
- September 27—St Jude Walk (see article on page 4)
- September 28—Fall Meeting in Richmond
- October 1st—VSC Chapter First Half Dues—send to Pam Cook-Smith
- October 15th—Lamplighter Articles due to Sandy Reed
- October 24th and 25th—SERC Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC

• 2026

- January 15th—Lamplighter Articles due to Sandy Reed
- January 17—Beta Sigma Trivia Nite over Zoom
- February 7th—ESA Leadership Online
- March 14th—Spring Meeting in Front Royal
- April 1st—VSC 2nd Half Chapter dues—Send to Pam Cook-Smith
- April 15th—Lamplighter Articles due to Sandy Reed
- May 15th—17th—VSC Convention in Front Royal
- Week of July 12-19th—International Convention in Norfolk—VSC is hosting

IC CHAPTER DUES

Good News! Our IC chapter dues can now be paid electronically! The form is on the IC Website . Click on International Council. I will also send out the form to the Chapter Presidents to share with their Chapter Treasurers. **Make sure the form gets sent to Brenda Campbell even if you pay the dues online.** IC Dues must be paid by May 1st of 2026 in order for a chapter to be considered in “good standing” and receive voting privileges at IC Convention. It will help our incoming President, Stephanie Hess, out immensely if these dues are paid by January. This will mean that the first Credentialing Report she receives will be easy to confirm.

TAX FACTS

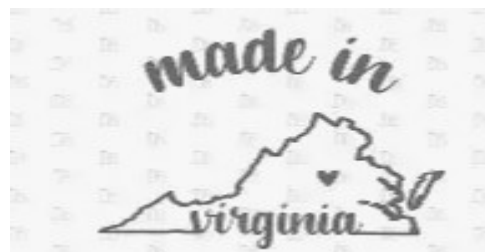
More Good News! Filing the Tax Fact forms can now be done electronically. **Chapters and Councils must file the Tax Fact Form by September 15, 2025 to maintain our 501(c)4 not-for-profit status with the IRS.** All the needed information is on the ESA Website. Click on Member Center and then look to the left for Treasurer Info. A drop down menu will appear. Choose Tax Facts and use that information to complete this task. **Tax Facts forms are submitted to ESAMC—not the IC Treasurer.**

LUCKY NUMBERS THEME FOR FALL MEETING

The Lucky Numbers theme for the Fall Meeting will be Local Treasures. This coincides so nicely with our IC Convention Theme of Sweet Virginia Breezes when we will be celebrating all of the regions of Virginia.

TO-DO LIST

- * Set aside \$5 for the SERC 50/50 raffle at during the Fall Meeting. Collect \$\$\$ from your friends, family and ESA members who can't attend. Brenda Orebaugh will be happy to take that money from you. She will announce the winner as part of her report at the Fall Meeting.
- * Find and follow Epsilon Sigma Alpha Virginia on Facebook.
- * Take and send pictures of chapter events to our Facebook volunteer, Kathryn Gerow. Chapter Presidents have her contact information.
- * Grab a cup of coffee or tea and spend some time perusing the ESA website. There are a lot of hidden treasures but you have to dig to find them.
- * Find and watch the video on how to set up “Partner in Hope” donations via the ESA website. Go to the Member Center then to the Education Center. Scroll down and find the video under “Working with ESA Partners”.
- *



BEVERLEY WRIGHT, PHILANTHROPIC CHAIR

PHILANTHROPIC CHAIRS - Please use the form on the ESA-VA website to report your chapter philanthropic hours and monies. That one has the Hope for Heroes/T2T category as a separate line item on the form so it will be easier at the end of the year to report that subtotal. Also, I haven't heard back from the IC Philanthropic Chair questioning the mileage rate; however, the IRS mileage rate for corporations (and we are now the ESA Membership Corporation) is shown as \$.70/mile as of August 1, 2025. Once I get confirmation from the IC Philanthropic Chair I will have the form updated. Thank you.

2026 ESA IC CONVENTION

2026 ESA IC CONVENTION - The local 2026 IC Convention Committee met with Celeste Webb, 2025-26 IC President; Angie Butenschoen, 2025-26 IC 1st VP/President Elect; Margaret Kramer, 2025-26 IC 2nd VP, and Brenda Fields, 2025-26 Workshop Coordinator. More information will be shared at the VSC Leadership/Board Meeting in September; however, a couple of highlights to share ...

1. All of the proposed center pieces were approved by the IC Convention Committee. We will need 30 - 35 for the major functions.
2. The official IC Convention dates will be July 22 - 26, 2026 though we are encouraging out of town/state members to come early and explore all of the beauty and fun in Virginia.
3. There will be a meal or feed for 4 events versus 3 - details in September.
4. The St. Jude Agape luncheon/recognition will be open to everyone not just those who raise 'x' amount of money.
5. Marie and I will share information on the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside at the September meeting. It is an older hotel, however, the only waterside hotel in Norfolk.
6. Please start planning to come to the 2026 IC Convention. Virginia needs your help and enthusiasm to make this one to remember.



Woke up this morning, the wind blowing 'cross my face; and I just had to look up above and thank somebody for this place.

3

Because he must've been thinking 'bout me when he planted that very first dogwood tree, cause it's where i wanna be I'm living in the Sweet Virginia Breeze.

ST. JUDE WALK 2025

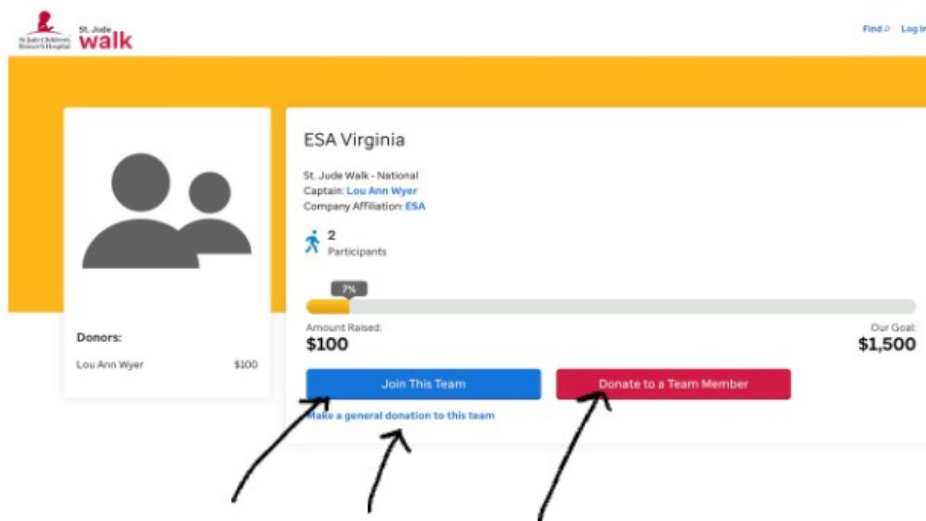
We invite you, ESA Virginia, to support the St Jude Walk 2025! While there is no live event in our area, our ESA team is set up and you can make your donations online (link below). Beta Kappa is also planning to sponsor a walk after the Leadership meeting on September 27th at the Mid-Lothian Mines Park located at 13301 N Woolridge Rd, Midlothian, VA. There are places to sit too, so you can participate even if you can't walk far.

If you would like to join us, please contact Lou Ann.

We would love to have your personal or chapter donation towards Team ESA Virginia!

Here is the link to the page with 3 ways to donate or use the QR Code.

https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/?pg=team&fr_id=160944&team_id=318184





BEST YEARS OF LIFE!!

VSC LEADERSHIP 2025

September 27, 2025 (9am-4pm) Bazaar set up 8am

Stonehenge Golf and Country Club

1000 Farham Drive

North Chesterfield, VA 23236

Name: _____ Chapter & No: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Registration fee: \$55.00 (Deadline: August 31, 2025)

Please indicate any Dietary Restrictions for lunch as it will be a served plated lunch! _____

Make checks payable to PPA 2025 Leadership _____

Mail to: Mindy Boyd _____

13131 Lady Ashley Road

Midlothian, VA 23114

Doubletree by Hilton, Richmond-Midlothian

1021 Kroger Center Blvd

Richmond, VA 23235

804*379-3800

Current Room rate=\$182.58 + tax

Hampton Inn Richmond-Midlothian Tnpk

800 Research Road

N. Chesterfield, VA.23236

804-897-2800

Current Room=\$181.00 + tax

(Still trying to get

cheaper rates) They are

Hilton hotels and you can

get a cheaper rate with

their honors program! (\$130-\$160)

Will be walking the Midlothian mines park to raise monies for St Jude's!

I will plan a dinner at a local restaurant for Saturday night. near the walk!



SERC CONFERENCE 2025
"Celebrate ESA Under the Carolina Moon"
Myrtle Beach, SC
October 24-25, 2025

State Council

Last name (Please print)

First name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email

Mark All That Apply:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Member Registration (through 10/1/25) | \$155.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Member Registration (after 10/1/25) | \$165.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Non-Member Registration (through 10/1/25) | \$155.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Non-Member Registration (through 10/1/25) | \$165.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Guest Registration (through 10/1/25) (Includes Fri Night Mixer and Banquet) | \$130.00 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Guest Registration (after 10/1/25) | \$140.00 | _____ |

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Guest Full Name: _____

Medical Dietary Requirements: _____

Check all that apply:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SERC Elected Board | <input type="checkbox"/> IC Elected Board | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member (pledge) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SERC Appointed Board | <input type="checkbox"/> IC Appointed Board | <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SERCHETTE | <input type="checkbox"/> PICPA | <input type="checkbox"/> Headquarters Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STATE President | <input type="checkbox"/> ESA Foundation Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify |

Make Checks Payable to:
Epsilon Sigma Alpha

Mail Registration and Check to:
Sondra Kucklick, 117 Messina Street
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
843-834-1228 jefsan123@gmail.com

Hotel: Landmark Resort
Room Rates: \$75-\$130/night
2 night minimum
Phone: 855-338-0226
\$15 resort fee
13% SC state tax

1501 S Ocean Blvd
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Group Name: ESA- SERC 2025
Group Code:
Cut off Date for Room rate 09/24/2025