

Friday, May 3 - Sunday, May 5, 2019

Sheraton Ridgedale, Minnetonka, MN Hosted by Alpha Sigma

MN ESA State Convention Meeting Minutes

**May 3, 2019**

**1. Registration Opens** at 3:00 pm.

**2. Association of the Arts, Love Fund Auction and Educational Drop-off** at 3:00 pm.

**3. Workshop: New Member Orientation and Member Refresher** by Terri Olson at 5:00 pm.

**4. “Star Your Engines” Welcome Party** opened by Sandy Hongerholt, President

**Offering of Thanks** by Marcie Haigh, Chaplain

**5. Dinner and Let the Games Begin!**

**May 4, 2019**

**1. Welcome and Call to Order** of the First General Assembly of the 68th Annual State Convention at 8:30 am

by Sandy Hongerholt, at the Sheraton Ridgedale, Minnetonka, MN. Hosted by Alpha Sigma

**2. Opening Ritual:** Sandy Hongerholt

**3. Opening Thought, Flag Ceremony and Lighting of the Memorial Candle:** Marcie Haigh

**4. Welcome from the Sheraton:** Birdie Elkofska introduces Mary Wright of the Sheraton staff.

**5. Introductions:** Sandy Hongerholt (lists at the end of the minutes)

Introductions of International, MARC and 2018-2019 State Elected Officers

Introductions of 2018-2019 Appointed Board Members

Introductions of Chapter Presidents

**6. Delegates and Roll Call:** Judy Searles (listed at the end of the minutes)

15 delegates eligible; 1 forfeit vote, 28 members and 1 guest present

**7. Introductions of Past MN Presidents**: Sandy Hongerholt

**8. Introductions of Tellers:** Sandy Hongerholt

Dianne Ocel, Bonnie Olson, and Kathy Rice

**9. Rules of Convention & Voting Instructions:** Read by Diane Vanusek

The Convention shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

1. Motions shall be presented to the chair in the following manner:

* Madam President (state your name and chapter)
* Be recognized by the chair.
* State your motion.

1. Main motions must be seconded before voted on and the motion is passed by a majority vote of delegates and/or those present. (Amendments need 2/3 majority of delegates).
2. No business may be entertained after an adjournment of a session. It will not be entertained until a new session has been declared open.
3. As Parliamentarian, I, Diane Vanusek, shall be on hand to clarify any problem on parliamentary procedure which may arise.

A motion to adopt the rules of the convention was made by Bonnie Olson and seconded by Marcie Haigh. Motion carried.

**10. Voting Instructions:** Read by Diane Vanusek

Article VI Section 7: No proxy voting shall be permitted. In the event an appointed delegate cannot attend the Convention/Membership meeting, the President of his/her chapter shall appoint another delegate and advise said delegate how to vote for the chapter. In the event no representatives from a chapter are present at the Convention/Membership meeting, the chapter forfeits its vote.

Article VI Section 8: Amendments to the State By-Laws shall be voted upon by eligible chapter delegates only.

Article VI Section 9: Selection of the State Philanthropic recipient(s) shall be voted upon by the eligible chapter delegate only at the State Convention.

**11. Correspondence and Approval of the 2018 Convention Minutes:** Judy Searles

There was no correspondence.

Betty Robinson made a motion to table the minutes approval in order for everyone to be able to read the minutes on their own; Birdie seconded. Motion carried. Minutes will be presented at a later assembly at this convention.

**12. Treasurer’s Report:** Kerri Petty

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Balance Forward | $15,017.24 |  |  |  |
| Receipts | $1,137.38 |  | Checking Account | $5,765.48 |
| Disbursements | $2,589.34 |  | Savings Account | $7,809.80 |
| Balance on Hand | $13,575.28 |  |  |  |

According to the By-Laws, the books will be submitted for audit no later than the first General Membership meeting after July 31, 2019. Get your bills and receipts into Kerri right away (no later than July 1) or immediately following IC Convention in July (and do not forget to sign the form.)

**13. Philanthropic State Project:** Birdie Elkofska

At our membership meetings throughout the year, we heard presentations from three organizations: Hope 4 Youth, Quilts of Valor and Welcome Home Vets. The selection of the Minnesota State Philanthropic recipient(s) is a delegate vote. Delegates, please fill out your ballots completely and bring to the ballot box. Tellers were excused to tally the ballots.

**The result of the vote:**

1. # of projects to support: 2
2. We will be supporting the top 2, all projects noted in the order of the votes.
   1. **Hope 4 Youth**
   2. **Welcome Home Vets**
3. Quilts of Valor

Sandy congratulated the 2019-2020 MN State Philanthropic Projects.

**14. Guest Speaker: Matt Laue:** introduced by Shirley Laue

Matt is a past Olympian in Nordic Combined, which includes cross country skiing and ski jumping. Starting to ski by the age of 4, his dream to reach for the Olympics was set by the time he was 10. Matt discussed the ups and downs he experienced along his journey. Matt is the son of ESA member Shirley Laue.

**15. First Vice President Report:** Dennis Marler

Membership: We started with 107 members and 13 chapters. Membership includes 18 MAL, but not Jo Hanson's online Chapter. Two members passed away: Shirley Hane and Pat Ericksen. Two members transferred: Pat Staffanson and Kathie Wasson. Jodi LeVesque, Rose Bitter, Mary Parr, Kate Sala and Pat Schwope all became MALs. Seven members allowed their dues to lapse. One chapter, Alpha Lambda, disbanded. We have three new members this year: Terry Dehkes, Billie Jane Mintjal and Karen Schneider.

The year ended with 103 members.

**16. Nominations from the Floor:** Sandy Hongerholt

The offices of Treasurer, Secretary, Second Vice President and First Vice President/President Elect do not have a complete ballot. Our by-laws allow for five candidates for each office. Therefore, nominations will be accepted from the floor. Are there any nominations for any of these offices? There were none. Therefore, Karla Nicklaus **made a motion** to cast a unanimous vote for the nominated officers. Kathy Reber **seconded**; **motion carried**.

**17. Introduction of Slate of Officers for 2019-2020 Year:** Sandy Hongerholt

President: Dennis Marler

First Vice President/President Elect: Sandy Dolence

Second Vice President: Dana Terry

Secretary: Betty Marler

Treasurer (1st year, 2nd term): Kerri Petty

Parliamentarian (2nd year): Diane Vanusek

Jr. Past President: Sandy Hongerholt

**Appointed Positions**

Finance: 2nd year - Kim Larsen and Kathie Wasson; 1st year – Kelly Check and Julene Donnay

Chaplain: Marcie Haigh

Philanthropy: Jackie Swanson

Hope 4 Youth: Kelly Check

Welcome Home Vets: Betty Marler and Karen Schneider

Ways and Means: Sandy Hongerholt

MedTox: Rhonda Krehl

ESA Foundation: Karla Nicklaus

Senior St Jude: Birdie Elkofska

Junior St Jude: Dee Rottering

MARC rep: Diane Vanusek and Sharon Desarmeaux

ESsAy: Terri Olson

Webmaster and Roster: Jen Davies

Love and Disaster Funds: Sandy Hongerholt

Historian: Dana Terry

Social: Dina and Bruce Strachota

Association of the Arts: Kay Matras

Hats for Hope: Sandy Dolence

Hope for Heroes: Shirley Laue

Photographer: Mark Petty

**18. ESsAy Report:** Terri Olson

Please submit all articles you wish to be publish by May 8. This issue will be the last until the Fall.

**19. Bids to publish the 2018-2019 ESsAy:**

Terri Olson, Delta Mu, would like to continue doing the ESsAy.

**Motion presented** by Birdie Elkofska; Betty Robinson **seconded.**

**Vote: Motion carried** and awarded to Terri Olson.

**20. 2020 State Convention Bid:**

Delta Mu put in a bid. Details for time and place not available yet.

Bonnie Olson motioned for unanimous ballot for Delta Mu to do the 2020 convention, and Rose Bitter 2nd.

**Vote: Motion carried** for Delta Mu to host the 2020 state convention.

**21. Courtesy bids for 2021 State Convention**

None

**22. IC Workshop:** Julene Donnay:

**a.** Julene started out by asking everyone to draw a pig on paper that she provided; we would discuss later.

**b.** She gave some details about the 72nd IC convention being held in July in Memphis. The convention is shortened to two general assemblies. The activities start on Wednesday with a mixer; then Thursday brings workshops; 1st general on Friday; MARC meeting on Saturday and more workshops. The unique opportunity for this convention is the chance to tour St Jude Hospital and facilities. Please consider attending the convention.

**c.**  Now back to the pig… turns out, how it’s drawn is an indicator of personality. Example: lots of details indicates an analytical, cautious and trustworthy person; simple drawing reveals a more emotional person who also focuses on the “big picture.”

**d.** Another exercise that Julene shared was the “six degrees of separation” challenging the members to write down the name of a person in each of several groups/areas of their lives as potential ESA recruits.

**e.**  Julene encouraged members to explore the ESA International website to see a variety of informative materials such as the promotional piece for recruiting members.

**f.** Julene presented the IC Award to Kelly Check. Julene noted that Kelly embodies the spirit of ESA.

**23. Announcements:** Sandy Hongerholt

MN Love Fund auction bidding and Association of the Arts bidding both close at 2:30 pm.

**24. Closing of the 1st General Assembly:** Sandy Hongerholt at 11:40am

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12:00 – 2:30 pm **“Winner’s Circle” Luncheon**

**Table Blessing:** Marcie Haigh

**Guest Speaker: Tracy Turner**

Tracy received his DVM degree from Colorado State University and a Master of Science degree from Purdue. He served on the faculty at the Universities of Illinois, Florida and Minnesota where he was Head of Large Animal Surgery. In 2004, he left academics to join the Anoka Equine Clinic and was inducted into the International Equine Veterinarian’s Hall of Fame. Turner started his own practice in Sports Medicine and Surgery in 2016. He is past President of the Minnesota Association of Equine Practitioners. Turner is on the board of directors for the Minnesota Horse Council and is vice president and chair for their Legislative and Horse Welfare committees.

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**1. Welcome & Call to Order** of the 2nd General Assembly of the 68th Annual State Convention at 2:20 pm: Sandy Hongerholt

**2. Roll Call by Delegate**: Judy Searles

**3. Book Club:** Marcie Haigh

Marcie sent an email blast announcing the introduction of a new activity - to review the books of Louise Penny. The first book is *Still Life.* Most members that have responded are interested in daytime meetings. If you are interested contact Marcie. The first meeting will be sometime in the Fall.

**4. MARC Report:** Dana Terry and Diane Vanusek

a. The MARC Board is working hard to provide an interesting and fun 2019 MARC conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The weekend of October 11-12, 2019. Mark your calendars. The hotel is very nice, right on the Ohio River and the view at night is wonderful. Watch for the registration information flyer soon.

b. Denise Hagerty, MARC Treasurer, is our representative at this convention and she will give us more information in her report.

c. Our MARC President Deb Vercellono from Nebraska has been ill. We wish her a speedy recovery. See the Chaplain’s Report for more information.

**5. Medtox/Lab Corp Report:** Rhonda Krehl

Rhonda thanked everyone who worked at Medtox. She expressed her appreciation for their steadfastness in working through all the changes this year. Rhonda distributed three handouts: 1. Summary by month of the kits made this year; 2. Summary of the monies earned for each of the philanthropic projects this year.

3. Summary by philanthropic project of all the monies earned at MedTox since program started in August 2004.

That total is over $423,000. Remember that MedTox is the largest single revenue source for MN ESA.

* 55,438 work care kits
* 1,460.25 hours
* Each worker on average $9.88/hr
* $0.26 per kit, on average
* TOTAL monies earned = **$14,425.70**

We almost lost MedTox as a Ways and Means project this year when most of the kits ESA made were discontinued. Only through the efforts of Greg Boemer at MedTox were we able to continue. He is very pleased with our work and how we use the money earned. Therefore, he moved some kits from an outside non-profit vendor to us. Now we work only on Mondays in two groups. One group, the Loons, arrive at 8 am; the late group, the Gophers, arrive at 9 am. Currently 10 ESA members participate. They would love to see new faces. I ask that others join in to find out what all the fun is really about. Again, a big thanks to everyone who has worked at Medtox.

**6. ESA Foundation:** Karla Kay Nicklaus

a. This is exciting news - three members became Life Members – Kelly Check, Julene Donnay and Birdie Elkofska, plus one new member – Dee Rotering. We now have 10 Life Active Members! More great news! At State Convention, Leann Monahan became a Life Member (11 Life Members) plus Jen Davies and Karen Schneider joined the Foundation. A special thanks to Sharon Desarmeaux for being one of the judges for a scholarship.

b. Thanks to all who made contributions to the Foundation by paying your annual dues, donating to the Fantasy Event, plus using the Turn Around Funds. Thanks to the members for volunteering your time at MedTox, which is our fund raiser for the Minnesota State Endowment Scholarship Fund.

c. SCHOLARSHIP REPORT:This year international received 6,506 paid scholarship applications; 132 from Minnesota.

* Minnesota State Memorial Endowment – 19 applicants – 1 awarded at $3600  
  Balance in Endowment - $63,257
* Parr Family Memorial Endowment – 9 applicants – 1 awarded at $850  
  Balance in Endowment - $14,264
* This past year the Sandy Weisenberger Endowment of $9,930 was transferred to Minnesota State Endowment

d. AWARDS: Thanks to Birdie Elkofska for all her time compiling the hours and monies for the Foundation. Also, congratulations to all the members for your contributions. Total hours - 483; money, goods and miles - $3,419.12. For complete list see the Philanthropic Awards insert. e. Sandy Hongerholt presented Karla with an appreciation certificate from the Foundation.

**7. St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Report and Awards:** Betty Robinson

a. Date St Jude Events Volunteer Allocation

6-28 Theater of Dreams $65,500

6-30 Warrior Dash $6,202

July Cruisin’ for St Jude $15,317

7-28 St Jude Ride MN Major $46,000

9-13 Fall Festival of Hope $14,750

9-22 St Jude Walk/Run $96,000 (Money raised $5,268.50)

10-27 St Jude Style Show (Tickets - $1,411.26; Auction - $5,527.42)

Dec. K102 Cares for St Jude Kids Radiothon $125,000

MN ESA was also credited with donations of $842.50, memorials of $310, and IC Challenge fundraising total of $800. As you can see, all the events, large and small, are very important. So please continue to support next year’s St. Jude Coordinators. b. I want to thank the following members for volunteering at these various events: Julene Donnay, Dee Rotering, Betty and Dennis Marler, Birdie Elkofska, Kim LeTendre-Olson and her family, Kerri, Mark and Mike Petty, Mari Scotch, Jodi Lang, Dina and Bruce Strachota, Terri Olson, Ellen Uhrich, Joan and Steve Lasky, Alpha Zeta and Alpha Sigma. Plus, many other members who helped. c. Awards are listed on the separate Philanthropic Awards insert.

**Philanthropic Awards:** Birdie Elkofska

ALL AWARDS ARE PER MEMBER

Foundation/MN Memorial: **Total State Hours 483.5; Total State Monies $3,419.12**

Hours Monies

First. Alpha Sigma 22 First. Alpha Sigma $154.93

Second. Gamma Zeta 16 Second. Delta Rho $75.71

Third. Alpha Chi 8 Third. Delta Mu $50.00

St Jude: **Total State Hours 1,716; Total State Monies $386,623.07**

Hours Monies

First. Delta Rho 56 First. Delta Rho $21,532.30

Second. Alpha Sigma 36 Second. Alpha Zeta $7,605.65

Third. Gamma Zeta 15 Third. Delta Mu $6,714.97

Easter Seals/Goodwill: **Total State Hours 87; Total State Monies $4,031.02**

Hours Monies

First. Alpha Chi 3.75 First. Alpha Sigma $113.19

Second. Delta Rho 3 Second. Alpha Chi $108.43

Third. Alpha Sigma 1.25 Third. Beta Sigma $66.80

Welcome Home Vets: **Total State Hours 770.25; Total State Monies $12,039.56**

Hours Monies

First. Gamma Omega 25 First. Gamma Omega $610.15

Second. Alpha Sigma. 24.5 Second. Alpha Sigma $177.89

Third. Gamma Zeta 22.5 Third. Gamma Zeta. $84.76

Hope 4 Youth: **Total State Hours 2,140; Total State Monies $6,204.03**

Hours Monies

First. Alpha Sigma 194.5 First. Alpha Sigma $338.49

Second. Alpha Zeta 22 Second. Alpha Zeta $197.50

Third. Gamma Zeta 22 Third. Gamma Zeta $98.45

Hats for Hope: **Total State Hours 219.75; Total State Monies $1,628.59**

Hours Monies

First. Gamma Zeta 8 First. Alpha Sigma $130.16

Second. Alpha Sigma 7.5 Second. Beta Theta $37.06

Third. Alpha Chi 5.5 Third. Delta Rho $24.72

Hope for Heroes: **Total State Hours 1,185.50; Total State Monies $243,493.24**

Hours Monies

First. Alpha Chi 51.5 First. Alpha Chi $17,603.47

Second. Gamma Zeta 25 Second. Alpha Sigma $5,373.84

Third. Gamma Omega 5.5 Third. Gamma Zeta $3,215.45

Disaster Fund: **Total State Hours 88; Total State Monies $475.86**

Hours Monies

First. Alpha Sigma 10 First. Alpha Sigma $22.76

Second. Delta Mu 1 Second. Gamma Omega $12.64

Third. Third. Beta Sigma $4.03

MN Love Fund: **Total State Hours 113; Total State Monies $1,213.01**

Hours Monies

First. Alpha Sigma 14 First. Gamma Omega $39.19

Second. Delta Mu 1 Second. Alpha Sigma $26.46

Third. Third. Delta Mu $20.81

Community, Civic and Chapter Projects: **Total State Hours – 5,712.50; Total State Monies - $47,898.76**

Hours Monies

First. Alpha Sigma 161 First. Alpha Chi $1,597.40

Second. Beta Sigma 129 Second. Alpha Sigma $1,236.13

Third. Gamma Omega 106 Third. Alpha Zeta $838.29

Both Birdie and Dennis expressed special thanks to Rhonda for the great job she did this year navigating all the changes and challenges with the MedTox program.

**8. Easter Seals Report**: Kathy Rice

a. The Goodwill Style Show in September 2018 raised $510.

b. Awards: TOTAL state monies is $1,137.20; donated goods $2,342.74; number of miles 365.2; and volunteer hours 82. For complete list of awards see the separate Philanthropic Awards insert.

**9. Hats for Hope – Alpha Sigma Report and Awards:** Diane Vanusek

a. Thanks to everyone for contributing goods to the various projects this year. Goods donated included:

* LabCorp/Medtox money this year amounted to $3,549.30. $1,000 was donated to the WCCO radiothon and got a 3 to 1 match!
* $100 checks or gift cards were given to members’ favorite food banks
* In September 2018 baby goods were collected and were given to Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. The knitted outer wear went to St. Anne’s Place
* In November, the “socks for all” donations were distributed to Welcome Home Vets and to Joseph’s Coat in St Paul
* January’s food collection was given to the Salvation Army
* In March, dog and cat food donations was shared with animal shelters

Alpha Sigma was careful to distribute the donations throughout the metro area so all our members’ communities benefited.

b. Awards are listed on the separate Philanthropic Awards insert.

**10. HOPE 4 Youth Report and Awards:** Kelly Check

a. Thank you for making H4Y a state philanthropic organization for 5 years and for all your support. H4Y staff is overwhelmed by the support that ESA has provided. They are extremely grateful.

b. Events that took place this year to support H4Y:

* HOPE’s Closet opened – a must-see boutique for clothing and accessories
* In May, Darkest Night 4K. ESA raised $510
* June, Inspiring HOPE LUNCHEON – ESA received the Civic Group Award
* October: MN ESA sponsored 2 games at the Gala; provided 10 birthday bags
* Alpha Zeta participated in the Out in the Cold event in December and raised $175
* ESA was a major sponsor for the March Spaghetti Dinner with a $500 donation.

c. We continued with ongoing monthly meals for H4Y. Throughout the year, ESA has gifted H4Y items from their Amazon Wish List.

d. Awards are listed on the separate Philanthropic Awards insert.

**11. Welcome Home Vets:** Lori Thorpe and Betty Marler

a. “If you can be anything at all, be kind.” This aptly describes the ESA members supporting Welcome Home Vets. Your donations of money, gifts and time has been heartwarming. You have assisted with kit deliveries and bed building; you have made generous donations of microwaves, cookware, dishes, linens and other household items; you have helped to serve a holiday meal at Veterans East; you have purchased dozens of pairs of socks for the homeless Vets.

b. Thank you for all who worked at Medtox. MN ESA was able to present a check for $2,249.90 to the Petersons. An additional $240 will be given when the final funds are available.

c. Whether you worked at Medtox/LabCorp, hosted an art project for WHVs, donated funds from a jewelry party, made a memorial donation or supported the wine/liquor/and more party, THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR HEROES!

**12. Hope for Heroes Report and Awards:** Shirley Laue

a. Thank you for participating.

b. Awards are listed on the separate Philanthropic Awards insert F.

**13. Association of the Arts Report and Awards:** Jackie Swanson

a. This year the AA convention exhibit, *Spread A Little Sparkle* *in Everyone’s Path*, was a fundraiser for Hope 4 Youth! Members voted for their favorite works of art by placing quarters in the designated boxes in front of each work. Drum roll please… money raised: **$205.55!!** Class Fees for the Glass MosaicArt Session raised $90 for Welcome Home Vets. This makes a total of $295.55 from Association of the Arts in 2018-19. I am grateful to all who participated in classes, who entered their beautiful works of art in the convention exhibit and to all those who brought their quarters to vote!

b. During the year, members were offered the opportunity to attend the Acrylic Pour Painting class taught by Eagan artist Alex Narva and, through the ESsAy, several opportunities for classes at local libraries and other venues. Aforementioned, Jackie taught the glass mosaic art class.

c. Awards: Here is a list of this year’s *wonderful, fabulous* Association of the Arts exhibit winners!

**Division I – Visual Arts** (10 entries)

**1st** – Jackie Swanson, Beta Sigma. *Landscape X,* mixed media collage

**2nd** – Judy Searles, Beta Sigma. *Rain in. the City,* watercolor

**3rd** – Jackie Swanson, Beta Sigma. *Soleful Ride,* mixed media collage

**Division II – Literature** (2 entries)

**1st** – Kay Matras, Gamma Omega. *Poem* **2nd** - Julene Donnay, Delta Mu. *Oh Canada*, short story

**Division III – Photography** (3 entries)

**1st** – Judy Searles, Beta Sigma. *Out Your Window,* photo collage

**2nd** – Sandy Hongerholt, Gamma Omega. *Sunset on Table Rock Lake,* color photo **3rd** – Sandy Hongerholt, Gamma Omega. Rose, color photo

**Division V – Crafts (Wearable Art)** (1 entry)

**1st** – Kay Matras, Gamma Omega. *Pieced Fabric Skirt*, sewn

**Division VI – Crafts (Misc. Media)** (12 entries)

**1st** -- Jackie Swanson, Beta Sigma *The Big One Got Away,* hand-tied fishing flies

**2nd** – Julene Donnay, Delta Mu *Jewelry: Necklaces, Bracelets, Earrings,* Felted wool, repurposed beads & findings

**3rd** – Rose Bitter, Alpha Sigma. *Garbage Can,* card game

**Division VII – Needlework (Fiber Arts)** (11 entries)

**1st** – Kerri Petty, Alpha Zeta. *Embroidered Center Panel,* quilted

**2nd** – Kay Matras, Gamma Omega. *Green Sweater,* knitted

**3rd** – Kim Larsen, Beta Sigma. *Shawl Nightshift Pattern,* knitted

**Division VIII – Holidays/Ornaments/Decorations** (2 entries)

**1st** – Julene Donnay, Delta Mu. *Feathered Easter Eggs* 2**nd –** Jackie Swanson, Beta Sigma. *Porcupine Ball*, Christmas ornament

**14. 2nd Vice President Report and Educational Awards:** Sandy Dolence

a. Sandy said she was pleased that she was able to attend convention and thanked everyone who helped her. Sandy congratulated Dennis on becoming President. She looks forward to his leadership and her role in supporting him.

d. Educational Awards:

Honorable mention: Gamma Zeta

3rd place: Alpha Sigma

2nd place: Gamma Omega

1st place: Beta Sigma

**15. Guest Speaker:** Molly DePrekel

Molly is a psychologist in private practice both at the Midwest Center for Trauma and Emotional Healing and Hold Your Horses. Molly uses the unique relationship people have with animals to assist her in therapy with clients. She completed an internship at Green Chimneys in NY, a residential center that is a leader in Animal Assisted Interventions. Over her 28 years of practice, she has worked with dogs and horses as animal-assisted therapists. Molly also volunteers with numerous national organizations in the field of animal assisted therapy and human/animal bond. Molly also uses her own therapy dog Willow and horse Whisper to assist clients in psychotherapy and wellness workshops. She talked about the challenges, rewards and inspiring results she has experienced guiding patients with animals.

**16. Convention Report:** Diane Vanusek

Full Registration 25 Friday Mixer 35

Partial Registrations 16 Saturday Luncheon 42

Total Registrations 41 Saturday Banquet 52

Guests 11 Guest Rooms. 8

Sunday Brunch 30

**17. MN Love Fund & IC Disaster Fund Report and Awards**: Dana Terry

a. Thank you for your generosity throughout the year.

b. MN ESA Love Fund

Starting balance $7,019.29

One claim submitted, approved, paid ($750.00)

2018-19 cash collected at state meetings. $37.00

2018-19-chapter donations (checks) $545.60

Ending balance as of 4/30/19. $6,851.89

Convention Love Fund Auction receipts. $684.00

2018-19 Ending balance (with auction money) $7,535.89

c. International Disaster Fund

Statistics on the Disaster Fund were not yet available from the International Office.

d. Don’t forget to pick up all of your stuff, MN Love Fund Auction prizes, Association of the Arts entries, etc.

**18. Recess of 2nd General Assembly:** Sandy Hongerholt

Sandy declared the 2nd General Assembly of the 68th Annual Convention of the Minnesota State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha closed.

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5:00 – 6:00 pm **No Host Cocktail Party**

5:30 pm  **Jewel Pin Ceremony**

**Years of Service Awards**: see list below.

6:00 – 7:00 pm **Installation of Elected Officers:** Julene Donnay

7:00 – 9:00 pm  **“ESA’s Team of Excellence” Banquet**

**Table Blessing:** Marcie Haigh **Entertainment: CODA Duo**

9:00 pm **Coffee Party**

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**May 5, 2019**

8:30 – 9:30 am **“Breakfast of Champions”:** Brunch

**Offering of Thanks**: Marcie Haigh, Chaplain

9:30 am **Memorial Service:** Marcie Haigh, Chaplain

Marcie opened the service by reading “The House of Prayer” by Helen Steiner Rice. Members sang “Amazing Grace.” Several members lit candles in memory of specific people.

* Julene Donnay, IC representative, for all ESA members internationally,
* Shirley Laue, for all the military men and women who died serving and defending our country.
* Jackie Swanson, for all the family and friends of ESA members who have died, including Jackie’s friend Kathy Erickson.
* Kathy Rice, for her Alpha Chi sister Shirley Hane who passed in October.
* Sandy Hongerholt announced that she was informed earlier in the morning that former state president of Wisconsin, Pat Erickson, died at the Wisconsin State Conference this weekend. Please keep her family in your prayers.

The service closed with the singing of “Make Me A Channel of Peace.”

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**1. Call to Order**: Sandy Hongerholt

Sandy declared the 3rd General Assembly of the 68th Annual Convention of the Minnesota State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha now in session.

**2. Roll Call:** Judy Searles

Moved and seconded to approve the 2018 MN ESA Annual Conference. **Motion carried**.

**3. MARC Workshop:** Denise Hagerty, MARC Treasurer, “Find Joy in your life every day.”

Denise, a Past Indiana State President and ESA member for 45 years, invited everyone to attend the 2019 MARC conference “Lighting Up the Queen City” October 11-12 at the Embassy Suites River Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Denise gave detailed information about the room rates, registration fees, the Leadership Conference speakers, the Foundation Fundraiser, other conference activities and city events. She also noted that MARC is looking for candidates for the MARC Executive and Appointed boards. Please consider the opportunity to serve.

**4. Jewel Pin Ceremony - Years of Service Awards, Pallas Athene and First Pearl**: Dennis Marler

See list below.

**5. Unfinished Business:** ­Sandy Hongerholt

* Diane Vanusek gave the results of the Kentucky Derby Game. Since the 1st place horse, Maximum Security, was disqualified and the 2nd place horse, the long-shot (65 to 1) Country House, was declared the winner, there was NOT a winner in our contest.
* Terri Olson asked whether or not it is correct that MN ESA has 22 MAL members. Dennis said that is true.

**6. New Business:** Sandy Hongerholt

* Julene introduced the idea of eliminating the office of Second Vice President and changing the term length of the President and First Vice President offices from one to two years. Any change like this will require lots of discussion, and significant changes to our by-laws and standing rules. Discussion tabled. Dennis will form a committee to study issue.
* Terri Olson thanked everyone for supporting her on her IC journey. Terri’s theme is diversity. Therefore, if you are participating in her own guard, please wear whatever color you want.

**7. Farewell Address:** Sandy Hongerholt

Sandy thanked everyone for their support the last two years and thanked Alpha Sigma for hosting this incredible convention.

**8. Presentation of gifts:** Sandy Hongerholt

a. gifts for elected board and appointed board

b. others presented Sandy with gifts

**9. Transfer of Gavel:** Sandy Hongerholt

**10. Initiation of Sandy Hongerholt into the Gavaliers**

**11.President’s Message:** Dennis Marler

* Dennis talked about ***diversity.*** He noted Terri’s IC logo – a heart divided into different shapes and colors – representing Terri’s theme of Diversity for her IC term. We are all different.
* Dennis spoke about an incident earlier in the week when he and Betty both sent email responses to Birdie following up on her offer to make awards certificates. Betty’s was full of exclamation points, happy words (wonderful, celebrating, party) and ended with “hugs to you!” On the other hand, Dennis’s email was short, to the point and ended with “thank you.” Oh, how we are different . . . AND WE’RE AMAZING!
* Dennis applied this diversity theme to Minnesota ESA noting that we can do better. We’ve done pretty good at welcoming **different generations.** We’re getting better at accepting **men**. We’ve done well at welcoming people **without regard to sexual preference.** And we **keep politics out** of our conversations and out of our good work, while we still proudly show our love of country.

**But we can do better.**

We kind of all look alike

Our average age is north of 50

We haven’t connected WELL ENOUGH with the next generation

We haven’t connected with people of different races, or different religious beliefs

We haven’t connected WELL ENOUGH with men

If we really believe in the Ideals of ESA – education, service and association. We must try harder.

* Finally, a request… **Be nicer to each other.** Dennis cited a quote from “The Little White Bird” by J.M. Barrie, in the book “Wonder”:

“Shall we make a new rule of life . . . always to try to be a little kinder than is necessary?”

So please, complement each other and say thank you.

* I wish to thank a number of amazing people:

Julene – installation and inviting me to join

Sandy H – for showing us how easy leadership can be

Thank you to my chapter Gamma Omega

Thank you to Alpha Sigma for hosting this convention

Thank you to the appointed officers

Thank you to the elected officers

Thank you, each and every one of you.

You are AMAZING!

**12. Announcements**: Dennis Marler

a. Transfer all your officer files as soon as possible.

b. Planning meeting scheduled for June 8 at the Brooklyn Park Library, 9500 W. Broadway Ave. at 9:30am.

**Recess of the 3rd General Assembly**: Dennis Marler

Dennis declared the 3rd General Assembly of the 68th Annual Convention of the Minnesota State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha closed.

**Retire flags**: Marcie Haigh

**Close Convention:** Dennis Marler

Dennis declared the 68th Annual Convention of the MN State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha closed; 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Searles, Recording Secretary

**Jewel Pinning**

**Kay Matras, Gamma Omega**

**Vicky Sandhofer-Kroli, Gamma Omega**

**Karen Schneider, Alpha Sigma**

**Billie Jane Mintjal, Alpha Sigma**

**Years of Service Awards**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ten Years** | **Marcie Haigh, Beta Sigma**  **Diane Rowe, Beta Sigma** |
| **Fifteen Years** | **Kim Larsen, Beta Sigma** |
| **Twenty-Five Years** | **Sandy Dolence, Gamma Omega**  **Kathy Eastlack, Delta Mu** |
| **Thirty-Five Years** | **Pat Oman, Beta Sigma** |
| **First Pearl** | **Karen Schneider, Alpha Sigma** |
| **Pallas Athene**  **First, Second and Third** | **Sandy Hongerholt, Gamma Omega** |

**Introductions: Sandy Hongerholt**

IC Representative (Corresponding Secretary) - Julene Donnay

IC First Vice President - Terri Olson

MARC Representative (Treasurer) - Denise Hagerty

MN First Vice President - Dennis Marler

MN Second Vice President - Sandy Dolence

MN Secretary - Judy Searles

MN Treasurer - Kerri Petty

MN Parliamentarian - Diane Vanusek

MN Jr. Past President - Dana Terry

**Introduction of 2018-2019 State Council Appointed Board**

Association of Arts - Jackie Swanson

Chaplain - Marcie Haigh

ESA Foundation Liaison - Karla Kay Nicklaus

ESA International Disaster Fund/MN Love Fund - Dana Terry

ESsAy Editor - Terri Olson

Financial Planning Committee - Dianne Ocel, Diane Vanusek,

Kathie Wasson, Kim Larsen

Hats for Hope - Diane Vanusek, Alpha Sigma Chapter

Historian - Dana Terry

Hope for Heroes - Shirley Laue

MARC Representatives - Diane Vanusek, Dana Terry

MedTox/Lab Corp Coordinator - Rhonda Krehl

Philanthropic Chair - Birdie Elkofska

Photographer - Mark Petty

Social - Dee Rotering

State Project #1 - Hope 4 Youth - Kelly Check

State Project #2 – Welcome Home Vets - Betty Marler & Lori Thorpe

St. Jude Coordinator, Senior - Betty Robinson

St. Jude Coordinator, Junior - Unfilled

State Convention 2019 Co-Chairs - Shirley Laue & Diane Vanusek

Webmaster - Jennifer Davies

**Introduction of 2018-2019 Chapter Presidents**

Alpha Chi - President Kathy Rice

Alpha Sigma - President Shirley Laue

Alpha Zeta - President Jodi Lang

Beta Sigma - President Eileen Spencer

Beta Theta - President Rhonda Krehl

Delta Mu - President Julene Donnay

Delta Pi - President Jennifer Davies

Delta Rho - President Betty Robinson

Gamma Omega - President Lori Thorpe

Gamma Zeta - President Joan Laskey

Theta Rho - Contact Jo Hanson

**2019 Chapter Delegates**

**Chapter membership will determine the number of delegates for each chapter:**

1 – 10 eligible members 1 delegate

11 – 20 eligible members 2 delegates

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CHAPTER** | **VOTES** | **DELEGATE** | **May 3** | **May 4** | **May 5** |
| **FIRST General Assembly** | **SECOND General Assembly** | **THIRD General Assembly** |
| Alpha Chi | 1 | Kathy Rice | X | X | X |
| Alpha Sigma | 1 | Shirley Laue | X | X | X |
| Alpha Zeta | 2 | Kelly Check  Dana Terry | X  X | X  X | X  X |
| Beta Sigma | 2 | Eileen Spencer  Judy Searles | X  X | X  X | Karla N.  X |
| Beta Theta | 1 | Rhonda Krehl | X | X | X |
| Delta Mu | 2 | Julene Donnay  Dee Rotering | X  X | X  X | X  Terri O. |
| Delta Pi | 1 | Jen Davies | X | X | X |
| Delta Rho | 1 | Betty Robinson | X | X | X |
| Gamma Omega | 2 | Betty Marler  Lori Thorpe | X  X | X  X | X  X |
| Gamma Zeta | 1 | Mary Tolle | X | X | Joan L. |
| Theta Rho | 1 | Jo Hanson | ABSENT | ABSENT | ABSENT |
| Jr. Past President | 1 | Dana Terry | X | X | X |
| Total Votes | **16** |  | 15 | 15 | 15 |
|  |  | **Forfeit Votes** | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|  |  | **Assembly Total** | 16 | 16 | 16 |