**ESA Minnesota State Meeting**

**Elks Lodge, Hopkins**

**October 3, 2020**

**Call to Order:** President Sandy Dolence called the meeting to order and the Opening Ritual was recited.

Opening Thought - Chaplain, Shirley Laue: How to Pray the 5-Finger Prayer. 1. Thumb – pray for family and friends; 2. Index finger – pray for those who teach and guide; 3. Middle finger – pray for leaders; 4. Ring finger – pray for those in need; 5. Pinkie finger – pray for yourself.

Secretary – Jackie Swanson: A silent Roll Call was taken among those present and a checked-in for those participating via Zoom. Thirteen elected/appointed board members, seven ESA members, and one member-at-large were in attendance.

Treasurer’s Report – Dennis for Kerri Petty: Account Balances for the period of August 1 through October 3, 2020. Checking Account Total: $14,698.41. (Full Treasurer’s report is attached.)

2nd Vice President – Marcie Haigh: Marcie asked members to let her know if they will be participating in and/or submitting a Chapter Educational. Chapters may choose their own theme. Marcie would like to focus on “Health and How to Stay Healthy.” At the state meeting, we were introduced to acupressure for immunity and fighting off viruses. Marcie took us through the “how-to” of locating six individual pressure points and their distinctive benefits.

First Vice President – Sandy Hongerholt: October 31st Halloween Rush Event at Hopkins Elks Lodge: Burgers, Bloodys & Brews. Purchase a Bloody Mary and a beer at the Elks bar and add your favorite garnishments. Fun activities are planned. Cost: $6 burgers or free to you and guest(s). Sandy’s looking for someone who would like to give the ESA presentation. Please contact Sandy at your earliest convenience. There is also a possibility she will host a High Tea Rush Luncheon (cancelled spring 2020 due to Coronavirus concerns) in Spring 2021.

Parliamentarian – Sandy H. for Diane Vanusek: Please read thearticle in the Essay regarding By-Laws/Standing Rules that were not addressed at State Convention and plan on sending a chapter representative to the parliamentarian meeting in February 2021.

Jr. Past President – Dennis Marler: Dennis expressed thanks for support this past year and for future support in the coming year. He encouraged members to tune into online coffee chats hosted by IC President LeAnn Wray and ESA Web Director Tracy Swanson and hear about what other states are doing. One state is having a virtual Halloween event, "Dress Up From the Neck Up," with prizes for the best costumes. These one-hour coffee chats are an excellent way to keep in touch, have a little fun, and learn a bit more about ESA. Chats are 2nd and 4th Monday~~s~~ morning/evening each month. President Sandy presented Dennis with a Certificate of Award from IC for the “Best State President.”

Financial Committee – Julene Donnay: The Proposed Budget amount for 2020-2021 is $22,050 (MN ESA Proposed Budget attached). Julene gave a general outline and walked through some points of the budget proposal with members. Dennis Marler, Gamma Omega, motioned to approve the Proposed Budget with a second from Betty Robinson, Delta Rho. All in favor; motion passed.

Open Positions: President Sandy announced project chair openings for *Hope for Heroes* and *State Project #1 Welcome Home Vets*. Betty Marler would like to step down from WHV and give someone else the chance to step up. She will tentatively hold the spot. Please contact President Sandy to assume either of these important positions. Sandy Hongerholt has assumed the chairmanship for *State Project #2 Wishes & More*.

Welcome Home Vets (WHV) – Betty Marler: Betty read the WHV fall update thanking ESA for its past support and choosing to support WHV for another year. Highlights as follows:

* Hope For Heroes National Program – Julene Donnay is bringing the WHV program to other ESA chapters across the country (so far Michigan, Louisiana and Texas) to walk through how to bring the program local to their areas. Watch the ESA website for updates.
* Pampered Chef Fundraiser – Thank you to Sandy Hongerholt and Gamma Omega for hosting a Pampered Chef party Saturday, September 19 with a portion of proceeds going to WHV. 15% of the $1,590 raised, going to WHV approximately $238.50 + $160 in cash donations.
* Veterans Holiday Dinner – WHV will once again host a holiday dinner for low income veterans on November 30th. Sandy Hongerholt is leading the charge so look for more details as the date approaches.
* Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was held on Wednesday, September 23 at the Elks Lodge with several ESA members in attendance.

Wishes & More (W&M) – Sandy Hongerholt: Wishes & More is very excited and very grateful to have been chosen as a MN ESA state project this year and is looking forward to working with us. Sandy will send out a full list of volunteer opportunities to members via email. A few examples of volunteer opportunities:

* Help w/ a mailing for October/November/December to do at W&M office or do at home & bring back.
* Pledge Drive Smile Amazon wish list of supplies.
* Word and/or Excel help in office.
* Check-in cards for children waiting for their *Wish.*
* Be part of a *Wish Reveal* (children up to age 19).
* Winter Ball fundraiser in February (set-up/take-down, donate/solicit auction items, etc.
* Link to W&M YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/MGPZwRsV4SU>.

Ways and Means – Betty Marler: Betty relayed that she has two Ways and Means projects or events on the backburner, but is not announcing just yet.

Foundation Counselor – Jackie for Karla Kay Nicklaus: ESA Foundation is sponsoring a Fund Fest Raiser October 17th provided through Zoom. Complete details for the *Murder Mystery* are in the Essay. Scholarship applications for 2020-2021 are now open; closing date on applications is February 1, 2021. The Minnesota State Memorial Endowment will award two scholarships in the amount of $2,600 for the 2021-2022 year. Foundation dues of $15 are due March 1, 2021. Please save the Foundation money by renewing before reminders need to be sent out.

St. Jude Senior Coordinator – Julene for Dee Rotering: Thank you to everyone who participated in the St. Jude Walk/Run. Final dollar amount is not in but $3,800 raised thus far and still counting. MN State Medtox/LabCorp pledged $1,600. If anyone works for a company who will double donations, let Dee know. We can safely volunteer for the Radiothon or work events through the website. The St. Jude Style Show has been postponed to April 10th, same venue. Birdie ran a virtual St. Jude Silent Auction with donations up to $1,400. Consider donating dollars to push up to $1,500.

President Sandy interjected with an Award Certificate presentation of “Outstanding St. Jude State Coordinator” to Birdie Elkofska.

Chaplain – Shirley Laue: Shirley reported cards were sent out to Rose Bitter (hip replacement) and Rhonda Krehl (cataract surgery).

MN Love Fund – Dennis Marler: Due to receiving a generous check designated to the MN Love Fund from the estate of Carol Crepeau, Dennis announced he would not be collecting today.

National Leadership Conference – Terri Olson: Virtual Conference via Zoom February 25-27, 2021. Registration is open now. $145 Early Bird before January 1st or $165 for late registration before February 5th. Open to all ESA members who are interested in learning communication and leadership skills. There is a Special Track for incoming state officers as they prepare to take on officer roles within their state.

MARC Reps – Birdie for Diane Vanusek & Sharon Desarmeaux: Sandy Hongerholt and Birdie Elkofska are going into their second year as MARC Co-Communicators. ReMARCs new password is: *ESAMARC1985*. Kim Polling has set up a new email for ESA information: esakimmip57@gmail.com.

The MARC Reps encourage all to attend the October 10 Virtual MARC Conference. 9AM start - Sign in early to socialize. Deadline for participation is today. Access information will be sent as soon as it is available. The new MARC President will be Brenda Fields. Chances must be postmarked today for the Mystery Box fundraiser at $10/Chance to have the Mysterious and Remarkable Container of good stuff delivered to you. Birdie collected dollars, intent and/or donations for the fundraiser. The MARC Board appreciates your help in supporting the Council.

**New Business**

President Sandy Dolence has a new idea to help bring members closer, close the communication gap, and curb some of the isolation they may be feeling. She’d like us to use up our old greeting cards. Don’t pay attention to the sentiment or holiday the card represents – just write a wacky message (e.g., Merry Christmas in October!), cut up the card into a different shape (a puzzle perhaps?) or slap it into a different-sized envelope – anything to create a smile. Don’t forget to sign it! SEND IT TO AN ESA MEMBER outside of your chapter that you haven’t seen or talked to for a while! Whatever your communication style, Sandy would like us to reach out to members who may be missing ESA functions.

Julene gave a shout-out for the article in *The Journey* about MN ESA members and *Welcome Home Vets.*  She says Texas kicked off a WHV program locally on Sunday with a call connecting the Texas State Council with Rick and Gretchen. An *Adopt-A-Vet* program will be available for those states that do not have a WHV program.

**Meeting Adjourned**. Closing Ritual recited.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Swanson, Secretary

Attachments:

 Treasurer’s Report 2020 October

 MN ESA Proposed Budget 2020-2021