



**Georgia State Council, Epsilon Sigma Alpha  
Mid-Year Board Meeting  
Atlanta's Finest, Douglasville, GA  
February 8, 2025**

**President Susan Knudson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.** Susan welcomed everyone and asked Stormy Bowie of Alpha Beta Chapter to welcome everyone. Following Stormy's welcome, Chaplain Betsy Briamonte gave an opening thought, "Peace we have in knowing God, only trust in his words". The opening thought was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Romanda Talley, Second Vice President.

President Susan asked Joy Lynn Tynes, Parliamentarian to review the rules governing a Georgia State Council Meeting. Parliamentarian Joy Lynn stated the rules governing a Georgia State Council Meeting were printed in the agenda. She asked all to review them. She asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

**The next order of business was Special Recognitions.**

President Susan asked if there were any guests in attendance, members attending a State Meeting for the first time or new Pledges in attendance. None were present.

President Susan welcomed Wren Pirkle of Alpha Delta Chapter as the Pledge of the Year and Alpha Delta as the Chapter of the Year. Francis Lanier of Kappa Rho Chapter, the Member of the Year, was absent. She recognized Kaye Genovese and Pat Griffin who have served as Past IC Presidents, and Romanda Talley and Joy Lynn Tynes who have served as Past SERC Presidents.

**The next order of business was Roll Call by Recording Secretary Theresa McGugan.**

Executive Board

Office	Name	Present/Absent
President	Susan Knudson	Present
First Vice President	Ruth Ann Edge	Absent
Second Vice President	Romanda Talley	Present
Recording Secretary	Theresa McGugan	Present

Corresponding Secretary	Karen Smith	Present
Treasurer	Sheryl Gootee	Present
Parliamentarian	Joy Lynn Tynes	Present
Jr. Past President	Susan Garner	Present

#### Appointed Board Members

Administrative Assistant	Betsy Briamonte	Present
Administrative Assistant	Kaye Genovese	Present
Advisor	Linda Long	Absent
Advisor	Kaye Genovese	Present
Archives/Historian	Gail Marchant	Present
Associate of the Arts	Wanda Price & Kim New	Present & Present
Auditor	Stormie Bowie	Present
Awards	Gail Marchant	Present
Chaplain	Betsy Briamonte	Present
Credentials	Shirley Humphries	Absent
Disaster Fund	Susan Garner	Present
EasterSeals	Monette Horton	Absent
Educational Director	Linda Long	Absent
Finance Project	Connie Presley	Absent
Foundation State Counselor	Sherry Presley	Present
Flag Ceremony	Luanne Langmo	Present
Gavelette President	Kim New	Present
Hope for Heroes	Sharon Smoot	Present
Leadership Coordinator	Susan Knudson	Present
Newsletter	Karen Smith & Gennie Gilvin	Present & Present
Philanthropic	Sherrie Bordeaux	Present
Photographer	Debbie Lamp'l	Present
SERC Coordinator	Joy Lynn Tynes	Present

Scrapbook Editor	None	N/A
Social Co-Chair	Shirley Humphries	Absent
St. Jude Coordinator	Romanda Talley	Present
Webmaster	Gennie Gilvin	Present
Yearbook	Karen Smith	Present

### Committees

Committee	Name	Present/Absent
Awards Committee Chair	Gail Marchant	Present
Awards Committee	N/A	N/A
Budget Committee Chair	Sheryl Gootee	Present
Budget Committee	Pat Griffin	Present
Budget Committee	Ruth Ann Edge	Absent
Bylaws Committee Chair	Joy Lynn Tynes	Present
Bylaws Committee	Pat Griffin	Present
Bylaws Committee	Gail Marchant	Present
Contracts Committee Chair	Gennie Gilvin	Present
Contracts Committee	Susan Knudson	Present
Contracts Committee	Karen Smith	Present
Credentials Committee Chair	Shirley Humphries	Absent
Credentials Committee	Susan Knudson	Present
Membership Committee Chair	Romanda Talley	Present
Membership Committee	Ruth Ann Edge	Absent
Minutes Committee Chair	Theresa McGugan	Present
Minutes Committee	Susan Knudson	Present
Minutes Committee	Joy Lynn Tynes	Present
Nominating Committee Chair	Ruth Ann Edge	Absent
Nominating Committee	Sherrie Bordeaux	Present

Nominating Committee	Pat Griffin	Present
----------------------	-------------	---------

### Chapter Roll Call

Chapter	President	Present/Absent	Members on	Members Present	Voting Delegates
Alpha Beta	Debbie Lamp'l	Present	7	6	2
Alpha Delta	Frances	Present	10	6	1
Alpha Nu	Connie Presley	Absent	3	1	1
Beta Kappa	Linda Long	Absent	3	1	1
Beta Sigma	Kaye Kinnebrew	Absent	0	0	0
Beta Zeta	Joy Lynn Tynes	Present	1	1	1
Delta Iota	Susan Knudson	Present	8	7	2
Delta Nu	Mary Cooper	Absent	2	1	1
Delta Omega	Sharon Smoot	Present	2	2	2
Gamma Omega	Theresa McGugan	Present	7	2	2
Gamma Sigma	Shirley Humphries	Absent	0	0	0
Kappa Rho	Frances Lanier	Absent	8	3	2
Sigma Chi	Sherry Presley	Present	3	2	2

### Gavelettes

Year Presided	Name	Present/Absent
1979-80	Angela Coleman	Absent
1980-81	Romanda Talley	Present
1984/85	Kaye Genovese	Present
1985/86	Pat Griffin	Present
1986/87	Martha Shroud	Absent
1994/95	Linda Long	Absent
1995/96	Susan Knudson	Present
2000/01	Shirley Humphries	Absent

2003/04	Joy Lynn Tynes	Present
2005/06	Gail Gilvin	Present
2006/07	Karen Smith	Present
2008/09	Connie Presley	Absent
2009/10	Susan McVey	Present
2010/11	Gennie Gilvin	Present
2011/12	Donna Moore	Present
2012/13	Sherrie Bordeaux	Present
2013/14	Gail Marchant	Present
2014/15	Sherry Presley	Present
2015/16	Frances Lanier	Absent
2016/17	Stormy Bowie	Present
2017/18	Frances Jennings	Present
2019/20	Kim New	Present
2020/21	Kim New	Present
2021/22	Vicki Warren	Present
2022/23	Wanda Price	Present
2023/24	Susan Garner	Present

#### Invitational Past State Presidents

Year Presided	Name	Absent/Present
1981/82	Luanne Langmo (MI)	Present
2001/02	Ruth Ann Edge (AL)	Absent

Following Roll Call, President Susan recognized Second Vice President Romanda Talley for serving on the Bylaws Committee for the International Council and Jr. Past President Susan Garner for serving on the SERC as Awards Chair.

**The next order of business was the Credentials Report given by Sherrie Bordeaux in the absence of Credentials Chair Shirley Humphries.**

11 of 13 Chapters were represented  
13 of 13 Chapters were paid for the year  
13 of 13 Chapters were eligible to vote  
18 Chapter Votes  
18 Past Presidents votes  
36 Total votes

**The next order of business was the Minutes Report given by Recording Secretary Theresa McGugan.**

She reported that in accordance with the GSC Bylaws, the 2024-2025 Minutes Committee had reviewed and approved the minutes of the 2024 Fall Board Meeting. The minutes have been posted to the GSC web site. There were no objections to the reading of the minutes at this meeting. Theresa moved to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was carried.

**The next order of business was the Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Sheryl Gootee.**

Sheryl reported the following:

The Checking Account balance as received on 08-01-24 was	<u>\$12,480.75</u>
Income:	<u>\$2,395.64</u>
Disbursements:	<u>\$1,073.53</u>
Checking Account Balance as of 01-31-2025	<u>\$13,803.86</u>
Saving Account Balance as of 12-31-2024	<u>\$6,348.29</u>
Candidates Fund Account balance as of 12-31-24	<u>\$3,923.89</u>
Total GSC Funds as 01-31-2025	<u>\$24,076.04</u>

**The next order of business was the Registration Report given by Gail Marchant, Registration Chair.**

Gail reported the following:

11 of 13 chapters were represented  
29 members were in attendance  
0 members at large were in attendance  
0 guests were in attendance  
29 total were registered  
5 rooms were booked

**The next order of business was the Membership Report given by Second Vice President Romanda Talley.**

She reported that Georgia has 13 active chapters, and 60 Jewel Pin Members. Georgia has 14 MALs and no new Pledges for a total of 60 Members.

**The next order of business was the Elected Officer Reports.**

*President Susan* reported that she attended SERC in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Susan presented Jr. Past President Susan Garner with the Georgia State Council awards won at SERC. She reported that she has written articles for both the IC and SERC newsletters and had participated in Zoom meetings for both IC and SERC Boards.

President Susan presented Jr. Past President Susan with the 2023-2024 Awards won

the SERC Conference. The wards were second place in the Thelma Waggoner ESA Foundation Award; second place in the Ennis Karns Hope for Heroes Award; third place in the Jan Lee Easterseals Award and third place in the Jean Freeman "Happiness Is" philanthropic award.

She reported she was extending the deadline for February JawJa Jonquil.

The new deadline will be February 15<sup>th</sup>.

*In the absence of First Vice President Ruth Ann Edge, Romanda Talley gave RuthAnn's Report.* In her report, Ruth Ann stated she was in Denver, Colorado attending the IC Leadership. She reported that she had sent emails out on January 6<sup>th</sup> asking each GSC member to consider serving in an elected or appointed position. On January 18<sup>th</sup> emails were sent out to each Chapter President asking the chapters to consider hosting the Leadership/Fall Board or Mid-Year Meeting for 2025-2026.

*Second Vice President Romanda Talley* related that Headquarters had been slow in record keeping. One of our Georgia pledges who had pledged on August 25, 2024, had not been listed in their records.

Romanda recognized and thanked newly pledged Judy Jenkins, Kappa Rho. Romanda encouraged all members to reach out to new possible members, because the membership in ESA is declining. She remarked that she felt this decline came about when ESA Headquarters changed the name of ESA from a sorority to an organization.

She proposed to President Susan that a committee of Georgia State Council members be formed to see how ESA can continue to grow.

She announced that GSC will be going to the mountains in May for a convention hosted by the Gavelettes. The 2026 convention will be held near Augusta. She announced that a host for the 2027 convention was in the works.

*As St. Jude Coordinator Romanda* stated that February 4<sup>th</sup> was St. Jude Research Hospital's 63rd birthday. She stated that February 15<sup>th</sup> will be International Childhood Day. She encouraged all to do their share on February 15<sup>th</sup> to find a way to donate to help children with cancer to survive.

She explained that February 15<sup>th</sup> is also National Gum Drop Day and challenged all to raise funds by pricing a bag of 16 oz bag of Gum Drops to benefit our contest called *Georgia ESA Gum Drops for the Children*. She asked each chapter to mail a check for the cost of the bags to her no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>. She will send and report the total as a donation from the Georgia State Council.

Romanda then reported a total of six chapters have contributed to St. Jude hospital. They were Alpha Beta, Alpha Delta, Beta Sigma, Delta Omega, Gamma Omega, and Kappa Rho. Romanda concluded her report by stating that we have three Dream Homes this year. The first one is the Columbus Dream Home and the Media Launch will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tickets will be on sale soon after that date. The Atlanta Dream Home will kick off on April 10<sup>th</sup> and will be given away on July 10. A total of 20,000 tickets will be offered. The Dream Home in Pooler is worth \$700,000 with 8,000 tickets to sell. All totals of monies will be disclosed at our State Convention.

Romanda and Sherry Presley distributed the updated information to the chapters who had worked on this year's Dream Home. This information may be used for their philanthropic reports.

*Corresponding Secretary Karen Smith* read an email from the SERC Parliamentarian Anita Hillburn who asked for proposed revisions to the SERC Bylaws or Standing Rules to be sent to her in writing by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Karen also read a thank you note from Pledge of the Year Wren Pirkle. Wren wrote how appreciative she was of the honor and of receiving the crystal cross.

*Treasurer Sheryl Gootee* stated she had no additional report.

*Parliamentarian, Joy Lynn Tynes* reported that the Bylaws and Standing Rules have been updated and posted on the website. She thanked Webmaster Gennie Gilvin for her service.

She thanked the Bylaws Committee of Pt Griffin and Gail Marchant for serving with her. Three proposed bylaw changes were presented to and accepted by the Executive Board. These proposed changes will be sent to the chapters at least 30 days before the May convention. The proposed changes will be voted upon at this year's convention.

*Jr. Past President/Disaster Fund Chair Susan Garner* gave her report. She stated that to date the Georgia State Council had received \$150.00 from one chapter to date. She hoped that she will be able to report 100 percent participation to IC by May. Donation checks should be made payable to ESA International Disaster Fund. She asked that donations be mailed to her at 2015 Daniel Road, Villa Rica, GA 30180. She will forward them to the IC Disaster Fund Chair.

**President Susan Knudson called for a break with members to return at 11:35.**

**The next order of business is the Appointed Officer Reports.**

*Association of the Arts Chair Wanda Price* encouraged members to go to the Awards page on ESA website and check out the divisions offered. She reminded everyone that entries may be submitted for each division. The entry forms may be sent to [dennisandwanda@netzero.com](mailto:dennisandwanda@netzero.com) or mail to Wanda Price at 151 Scholar Road, Guyton, Georgia 31312 before April 15, 2025. Wanda ended with, "Let's make this year, our 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee, one of the best in the Association of the Arts!" President Susan reminded everyone that she issued a challenge to create an art piece by using various recycled materials.

*Auditor, Stormie Bowie* had no report.

*Awards Chair Gail Marchant* asked all chapters to keep records and submit the chapter's good deeds on the various award forms which are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. She reminded appointed officers who had awards to be judged to review their duties for the office, because some of the forms required judging from outside of ESA.

She requested all information from the appointed officers' reports reach her by May 1<sup>st</sup>. She also indicated an instructional email will be sent to each of the Chairs about the awards.



*Chaplain Betsy Briamonte* had no report.

*EasterSeals Chair Monette Horton* was not in attendance, her report was given by Wanda Price. In her report, Monette stated she has received only one report of donations from one chapter. Monette encouraged all chapters to donate to this worthy cause. Monette indicated that a form to record donations was included in each Chapter President' Packet. The completed form should include a chapter name, amount donated and to which project it was donated. Any questions be directed to her at [monettesummers@yahoo.com](mailto:monettesummers@yahoo.com) or at 4 Pinnacle Court, Savannah, Georgia 31419.

*President Susan presented the report for Educational Chair Linda Long.* She related that Linda needed a hip replacement and that surgery has not been scheduled. She stated that Linda has her judges lined up and to please mail in chapter educationals for judging to her by the deadline.

*State Finance Chair Connie Presley* was absent due to illness. The state finance projects that had been discussed were a 50/50 drawing and a silent auction. The official projects will be named later.

*ESA Foundation State Counselor Sherry Presley* stated that the scholarship application time has ended for 2024-2025. The Foundation Board is processing all the applications for this year. All Georgia ESA scholarships had applicants. She stated she will have more information to share at Convention. She reminded members who are Life Active members, that donations can still be made to the Foundation through the Pathway Program.

*Gavelette President Kim New* reported that the Gavelettes would be meeting 10 minutes after the Mid-Year meeting adjourns.

*Hope for Heroes Chair Sharon Smoot* reported there are many ways to support heroes in Georgia. They include volunteering, donating, and participating in special campaigns. She listed the following to volunteer: Soldiers Angels, help distribute food to service members, veterans, and their family, help with holiday support or special campaigns. House of Heroes, and volunteering to help with home repairs for heroes, such as painting, installing amps, and repairing appliances.

She listed the following to donate: Operation Appreciation: Donate to help support military service members, veterans, and their families, Armani's Heroes: Donate to help support families with special needs, including medical expenses, food assistance, and funeral arrangements, Soldiers Angels, and Donate Girl Scout Cookies.

She listed the following to participate in Special Campaigns: Soldier's Angels: participate in Treats for Troops, Warm Feet for warriors, and Holiday Stockings for Heroes Armani's Heroes, raise funds for heroes in need, support educational opportunities, Georgia Hero Scholarship Program, provide educational scholarship assistance to members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reservists who served in combat zones, and the children and the spouses of such members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reserves.

She asked all to consider what can be done for all heroes such as Firemen, Police,

EMS, etc.

Vicki Warren explained an opportunity to participate in the monthly ice cream social at Trinka Davis Veterans Home in Carrollton. The social event takes place on the third Saturday of each month and last for about an hour.

*Philanthropic Chair Sherrie Bordeaux* related she hoped that every chapter was focusing on philanthropic projects. She encouraged all to keep up with the time, mileage and monies each have donated. She reported the Philanthropic Georgia Guidelines and form can be found on the Georgia State Website. The IC guidelines can be found on the IC website. The philanthropic reports are due and should be post marked by April 15.

*SERC Coordinator Joy Lynn Tynes* reported that a fun time was had by the Georgia delegation at the 2024 SERC Conference in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Those attending were President Susan, First Vice President Ruth Ann, Junior Past President Susan Garner and herself.

Joy Lynn stated that our Council shined one again at the Conference. During the Opening Ceremony, President Susan carried the Georgia flag with pride as SERC Chaplain (herself) presented the All-Faith's Flag with honor and conducted a Celebration of Life Ceremony.

At the Award's ceremony SERC Association of the Arts Chair Susan Garner, shared all the winners. The Georgia State Council brought home awards which were announced earlier. Joy Lynn reported that Georgia auction bag raised \$325.00. She gave thanks for anyone that contributed to the bag..

The new SERC Treasurer is Jennifer Gailey, our SERC Rep last year. Chapters were encouraged to send \$20.00 to support this Council. This information is included on a blue SERC information sheet in the Chapter Presidents packet.

She reported that the SERC Council is hosting the 2025 IC convention in Raliegh, NC in July. Members who are attending are asked to contact Jennifer Gailey for volunteering assignments available during the convention. Her contact information will be on the blue SERC information sheet.

The 2025 SERC Conference will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on October 24-25. The registration fee is \$155.00. Rooms at the Landmark Resort are \$120.91 for interior rooms and \$186.45 for an Ocean Front Suite. These prices include the resort fee and taxes.

*Yearbook Chairman, Karen Smith* reported there were few updates necessary for the GSC Yearbook. These updates would be sent to the membership next week.

Karen presented President Susan with updated yearbook pages.

**The next order of business was Unfinished Business.**

Luanne Langmo was called upon by President Susan. Luanne stated the

feeling of frustration with the ESA Foundation Turn Around Fund. She stated that checks were written to the North Carolina victims and the Turn Around Fund lost the checks. After not receiving any feedback from the Foundation Board, she contacted Doug Mills, ESA Headquarters Staff-Accountant. Doug informed her that he had received many other complaints. Luanne stated that the missing checks were finally found and re-issued. It took four months before the needy families received the donations.

President Susan stated that she will have to have a Zoom meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> with IC Executive Board/State Presidents. There she would express how displeased our Council is with the service that we are receiving.

*2025 Local Convention Chair Susan McVey*, reported on Convention. The 2025 convention will be held in Amicalola Falls, Ga. from May 16 to May 18, 2025, hosted by the Gavelettes. Hotel registration deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. The convention fee is \$155. The falls may be visited by hiking up the stairs or by driving.

### **The next order of business was New Business.**

The 2026 GSC Convention report by Local Convention Chair Sheryl Gootee. Sheryl announced that the convention will be held at The Inn at Houndslake Aiken, South Carolina on May 22-24, 2026. The convention theme is *Somewhere in Time*. The Gamma Omega members are excited to host this event,

### **The next order of business was Executive Board Recommendations.**

President Susan prefaced the recommendation that there was an error in the 2024-2025 GSC Budget omitting the line item to pay for the Incoming President's room at IC Leadership. This was missed by the 2024-2025 Budget Committee, Executive Board Committee and the membership at state convention. Susan called on Corresponding Secretary Karen Smith to read the recommendation.

Karen read the following:

*The Executive Board recommends that the cost for ½ room for three nights lodging at 2025 IC Leadership be paid to the Incoming President.*

Karen moved that the recommendation be approved. Coming from a committee the motion does not require a second. President Susan called for discussion. There was none. She called for the vote and the motion passed.

The next order of business was a call for SERC Nominations. President Susan called for nominations. Debbie Lamp'l President of Alpha Beta nominated Susan Garner for the office of her choice. President Susan called for those in favor of the nomination. The nomination was carried.

### **The next order of business was Announcements**

1. President Susan thanked Alpha Beta Chapter for hosting the Mid-Year

meeting.

2. The next GSC Board meeting would be at GSC Convention May 16-18, 2025, at Amicalola State Park.
3. The winners of the Convention fundraisers were announced.

Closing thought was given by Chaplain Betsy Briamonte.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 followed by the Closing Ritual.

*Theresa McGugan*

Theresa McGugan  
2024-2025 GSC Recording Secretary