

Georgia State Council  
Epsilon Sigma Alpha International



GSC Mid-Year Meeting – Aiken, SC  
Saturday, February 17, 2024

The 2024 Georgia State Council (GSC) Mid-Year meeting was held at the lovely Newberry Hall in Aiken, SC on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

President Susan Garner called the meeting to order at 10:00am and thanked the hosting Chapter, Gamma Omega, for the wonderful porch party get together Friday night.

Opening Thought: Chaplain, Luanne Langmo, shared an invitation for strength, thoughts and prayers for Romanda Talley, who had an accident at the hotel last night. Then, she shared an opening thought, 'Welcome to Mid-Year 2024 and Good Morning'.

'You've got this. Every morning when you wake up, you are given another chance to decide who you want to be. You can continue to sleep with your dreams or you can wake up and chase them.

The adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential. So, launch yourself into today with enthusiasm and courage. Believe in yourself, your power and your ability to make a difference... one small step at a time.

Quote from Snoopy: "When you choose joy, you feel good and when you feel good, you do good, and when you do good, it reminds others of what joy feels like and it just might inspire them to do the same." '

Second Vice President, Ruth Ann Edge presented the American Flag and led the membership in reciting the 'The Pledge of Allegiance'.

President Susan Garner led the membership in the reciting of the Opening Ritual.

The first order of business was addressing the Rules Governing a Georgia State Council Meeting by Parliamentarian, Susan McVey. Susan allowed a few moments for the membership to silently review the rules that were provided in the agenda. There were no questions.

1. Obtaining the Floor:

Before a member can make a motion or address the assembly in debate, it is necessary that he/she obtain the floor, that is, they must rise after the floor has been yielded, and address the presiding officer by official title, state his/her name and chapter prior to addressing the assembly.

2. Motions and Resolutions:

After obtaining the floor a motion is made by saying: "I move ..." and then state the proposed action. If a motion is lengthy, it must be written and handed to the President/Chair.

3. Second Motions:

A second to a motion must come from a member of a chapter other than that which proposed the motion. To second a motion, the member must rise; state your name and chapter and say, "I second the motion."

4. Stating the Question:

When a motion has been made and seconded, it is the duty of the President/Chair, unless the motion has been ruled out of order, to immediately state the question that is before the assembly for its consideration and action.

5. Debate:

A delegate is limited to speaking twice on one motion. A Delegate's first speech shall be limited to two (2) minutes, debate to ten (10) minutes.

6. Time:

All reports and speeches will be limited to three (3) minutes unless previously cleared with the President/Chair.

Next, President Susan Garner gave special recognition to certain members in attendance.

- Our 2 members who were attending a GSC meeting for the first time: Doris Toole and Geri Barborek with Gamma Omega. (Susan Knudson presented them with a gift.)
- Our 2 pledges: Doris Toole and Geri Barborek with Gamma Omega. (Susan Knudson presented them with a gift.)
- Our Member of the Year, Mary Cooper was not in attendance.
- Our Chapter of the Year, Delta Iota
- Our IC Past Presidents from Georgia: Kaye Genovese & Pat Griffin
- Our SERC Past Presidents from Georgia: Romanda Talley & Joy Lynn Tynes

The next order of business was Roll Call, by Recording Secretary, Venetia Lewallen.

<u>Executive Board</u>	<u>Present / Absent</u>
President, Susan Garner	P
First Vice President, Susan Knudson	P
Second Vice President, Ruth Ann Edge	P
Recording Secretary, Venetia Lewallen	P
Corresponding Secretary, Kim New	P
Treasurer, Gail Marchant	P
Parliamentarian, Susan McVey	P
Jr. Past President, Wanda Price	P

<u>Appointed Board</u>	<u>Present / Absent</u>
Administrative Assistant, Janie Kozal	P
Administrative Assistant, Frances Lanier	P
Advisor, Gail Marchant	P
Advisor, Sherrie Bordeaux	P
Archives/Historian, Gail Marchant	P
Association of the Arts, Sharon Smoot	P
Auditor, Pat Griffin	P
Awards, Gail Marchant	P
Chaplain, Luanne Langmo	P
Credentials, Shirley Humphries	P
Disaster Fund, Wanda Price	P
Easterseals, Mary Cooper	A
Educational Director, Theresa McGugan	P
Finance Project, Sheryl Gootee	P
Foundation State Counselor, Sherry Presley	P
Flag Ceremony, Romanda Talley	A
Gavelette President, Sherry Presley	P
Hope for Heroes, Vicki Warren	P
Leadership Coordinator, Susan Garner	P

Newsletter, Kim New & Venetia Lewallen	P
Philanthropic, Kay Genovese	P
Photographer, Debbie Lamp'l	A
SERC Coordinator, Linda Long	P
Scrapbook Editor, Alpha Beta Chapter	P
Social Co-Chairman, Shirley Humphries	P
Social Co-Chairman, Marsha Stroud	P
St. Jude Coordinator, Romanda Talley	A
Web Master, Gennie Gilvin	P
Yearbook, Karen Smith	P

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Present / Absent</u>
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Awards Committee Chairman, Gail Marchant	P
Awards Committee, Gennie Gilvin	P
Budget Committee Chairman, Gail Marchant	P
Budget Committee, Susan Knudson	P
Budget Committee, Donna Moore	P
Bylaws Committee Chairman, Susan McVey	P
Bylaws Committee, Susan Knudson	P
Bylaws Committee, Vicki Warren	P
Contracts Committee Chairman, Gennie Gilvin	P
Contracts Committee, Susan Knudson	P
Contracts Committee, Karen Smith	P
Credentials Committee Chairman, Shirley Humphries	P
Credentials Committee, Susan Knudson	P
Membership Committee Chairman, Susan Knudson	P
Membership Committee, Ruth Ann Edge	P
Minutes Committee Chairman, Venetia Lewallen	P
Minutes Committee, Susan McVey	P
Minutes Committee, Susan Garner	P
Nominating Committee Chairman, Susan Knudson	P
Nominating Committee, Linda Long	P
Nominating Committee, Donna Moore	P

### Chapter Roll Call

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Present / Absent</u>	<u># on Roll</u>	<u># Present</u>
Alpha Beta	Stormy Bowie	A	8	4
Alpha Delta	Pat Griffin	P	11	2
Alpha Nu	Connie Presley	P	3	2
Beta Kappa	Linda Long	P	3	2
Beta Sigma	Kaye Kinnebrew	A	2	0
Beta Zeta	Joy Lynn Tynes	A	1	0
Delta Iota	Susan Knudson	P	8	4
Delta Nu	Vicki Warren	P	2	1
Delta Omega	Sharon Smoot	P	3	2
Gamma Omega	Theresa McGugan	P	6	5
Gamma Sigma	Sandra Helton	A	7	4
Kappa Rho	Romanda Talley	A	8	5
Sigma Chi	Sherry Presley	P	3	2

Total members present: 33

<u>Gavelettes</u>		<u>Present / Absent</u>
1979-80	Angela Coleman	A
1980-81	Romanda Talley	A
1984-85	Kaye Genovese	P
1985-86	Pat Griffin	P
1986-87	Marsha Stroud	P
1994-95	Linda Long	P
1995-96	Susan Knudson	P
2000-01	Shirley Humphries	P
2003-04	Joy Lynn Tynes	A
2005-06	Gail Gilvin	A
2006-07	Karen Smith	P
2008-09	Connie Presley	P
2009-10	Susan McVey	P
2010-11	Gennie Gilvin	P
2011-12	Donna Moore	P
2012-13	Sherrie Bordeaux	P
2013-14	Gail Marchant	P
2014-15	Sherry Presley	P
2015-16	Frances Lanier	P
2016-17	Stormy Bowie	A
2017-18	Frances Jennings	A
2019-20	Kim New	P
2020-21	Kim New	P
2021-22	Vicki Warren	P
2022-23	Wanda Price	P

<u>Invitational Past State Presidents</u>		<u>Present / Absent</u>
1981-82	Luanne Langmo (MI)	P
2001-02	Ruth Ann Edge (AL)	P

Next, President Susan Garner recognized our GSC members serving on the IC and SERC Boards.

International Council Board:  
Romanda Talley – Nominating Committee

Southeastern Regional Council Board:  
Susan Garner - Association of the Arts Chair  
Joy Lynn Tynes – Chaplain

The next order of business was the Credentials Report. The Credentials Chairman, Shirley Humphries, gave the following report.

11 of 13 Chapters represented for a total of (All present were in good financial standing)	21 Chapter Votes
GSC Past President Votes	<u>18 Votes</u>
Total Votes	39

The next order of business was the reading of the minutes by Recording Secretary, Venetia Lewallen, from the 2023 GSC Fall Board Meeting, held on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Bremen, GA. Venetia described that the minutes were approved by the Minutes Committee and published to the GSC Website. Venetia moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

The next order of business was the Treasurer’s Report by the Treasurer, Gail Marchant. Gail supplied the membership with a Treasurer’s Report as of February 17, 2024.

Checking Account Balance as of 9/15/2023	\$11,983.38
Incomes:	\$ 1580.25
Expenses:	\$ 1173.87
Checking Account Balance as of 1/31/24:	\$12,389.76
Savings Account Balance as of 1/31/2024:	\$ 6347.74
Candidates Fund Account Balance as of 1/31/2024:	<u>\$ 3723.56</u>
Total GSC Funds as of 1/31/2024:	\$22,461.06

The next order of business was the Registration Report by Sheryl Gootee, our Meeting Registration Chairman. Sheryl reported that there were 11 of 13 chapters represented at the Mid-Year meeting. There were 37 total members registered, 0 MALs (Members At Large) and 0 Guests. (Not all registered members were able to attend.) Total number of hotel rooms used is 13.

The next order of business was the Membership Report, by Susan Knudson, First Vice President. Susan reported that as of Wednesday, February 7, 2024, from IC, there were 13 Active Chapters, with all in good standing, 63 Jewel Pin Members, 19 MAL members and 0 Pledges. Reminder that IC defines new members as pledges up to 3 months, while GSC continues to define new members as pledges up to 6 months.

The next order of business was the Elected Officers Reports.

**Elected Officers Reports:**

President Susan Garner thanked the membership for allowing her to attend and represent Georgia at SERC Convention in Savannah, back in October. She was honored to carry the Georgia Flag in the Opening Ceremony. It was a wonderful convention and Susan congratulated everyone for a job well done. And Congratulations to all of our Awards and Association of the Arts Winners from Georgia.

Awards			Association of the Arts Winners	
Adelaide Smith Disaster Fund Award	Second Place with \$26.30 per member	1	Division IV (Visual Arts)	Romanda Talley, Second Place with “Fly on My Face”
Jean Freeman “Happiness Is” Philanthropic Award	First Place with \$115.85 per member	2	Division IV (Visual Arts)	Vicki Warren, Third Place with “Spring at Prater’s Mill”
Joan Mason St. Jude Award	Third Place with 38% of chapters participating	3	Division VI (Holiday Art)	Gennie Gilvin, First Place with “Georgia Wooden Christmas Ornament”
SERC Educational Reporting Award	Third Place with 38% of chapters participating	4	Division VI (Holiday Art)	Wanda Price, Second Place with “And The Band Played On Wreath”
Barbara Riley Circle of Life Award	Second Place with \$6,985.81 per member	5	Division VII (Wearable Art)	Sherry Presley, First Place with “Faith Bracelet”
Jan Lee Easterseals Award	Second Place with \$26.67 per member	6	Division VIII (Mixed Media)	Gennie Gilvin, Second Place with “Georgia Wooden Pen”
Ennis Karns Hope for Heroes Award	Second Place with \$305.90 per member	7	Division VIII (Mixed Media)	Sherry Presley, Third Place with “Nature”

Next, Susan shared that since Leadership/Fall Board, she had participated in the monthly IC State Presidents virtual meetings, attended Delta Iota's annual Christmas Party, participated in laying wreaths at the Marietta National Cemetery and toured City of Refuge in Atlanta, Georgia where House of Cherith is located. On her tour at the City of Refuge, Susan was able to see the massive complex and talk to a couple of the ladies staying in their long-term housing section. If you or your chapter would like to visit, let Susan know and she will send contact information.

Susan invited anyone who has not participated in laying of the wreaths, to do so next year. She described how wonderful and humbling it was to be involved in this amazing event.

Next, Susan reported on the IC and SERC Representatives who will be attending our GSC Convention in May. She put their contact information in the Chapter Packets and invited everyone to send them a card or email letting them know we are looking forward to them joining us.

- IC Rep – Celeste Webb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
- SERC Rep – Tammy Gregg, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

The IC President, Brenda Meyer's theme is CONNECT THROUGH ESA and SERC President, Laura Gnewuch's theme is REACH WITH YOUR HEART. Susan's GSC 2023-2024 theme, of course, is ESA... ADVENTURE AWAITS. Lastly, Susan invited everyone to think outside the box and try something new and exciting.

First Vice President Report, by Susan Knudson, was the next order of business. She reported that we had a great SERC Convention last October. More information coming later this meeting. She also mentioned that since IC Leadership is later this year than normal, she has not yet attended. She thanked GSC in advance for the opportunity to attend and will provide updates in the next newsletter. Susan then described that she sent out Nomination Forms and 'Willing to Serve' forms to all members via email on January 28, 2024 and provided copies of these forms in the latest newsletter. She still has a few positions open and encouraged members to consider running for office next year. The forms are due March 1, 2024, but she was available to accept them today, if any were ready. Susan then thanked the members who have already accepted appointed positions for next year.

Next, she described the Zoom meeting she had with President Susan Garner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Ruth Ann Edge, Tracy Swanson at IC Headquarters to discuss membership and recruiting ideas. They came up with a big idea for Georgia. Then, Susan polled the membership to see how many would be interested in a big, state-wide FUN event(s), that will reach across the state dividing the state into big areas, spanning all our chapters. Examples may be a Bingo or Bunco Party, a Wine & Cheese Social, an Oktoberfest Party or an Old-Fashioned Tea Party. The event(s) would be in October, 2024. She asked for a show of hands on how many would be interested in participating. Many hands went up. Then, she mentioned that she and Ruth Ann would naturally be on the Membership Committee and would start planning the event(s). They will be asking others to also be on the Membership Committee for the coming year.

The next order of business was the Second Vice President Report, by Ruth Ann Edge. Ruth Ann reminded that ESA turns 95 years old in May this year and shared information about the IC headquarters Membership campaign for this year, 'Just One More in 2024'. She encouraged each chapter to have a recruitment event and try to have at least one more member in May 2024 than they had in May 2023. Each month that we have growth, we will be entered in a competition that will be celebrated on Facebook Live and also at IC Convention. Each month, Facebook Live will have a prize drawing for each state that had growth, and we can watch the drawings. To watch, go to the ESA Membership Ideas Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ESAmembershipideas>) on these dates, at 8pmET, and the drawing will last approximately 10 minutes.

Feb 5, Mar 11, April 8, June 10

Next, Ruth Ann described the 'Power of Us' competition which goes through May 31. Our chapters can submit recruitment and education activities for this year through May 31, 2024. Submit a description and a photo of your activity to Headquarters for the 'Power of Us' via the Epsilon Sigma Alpha website.

Lastly, Ruth Ann reported that she sent emails to all chapter presidents in January encouraging them to consider hosting the 2026 GSC Convention and reminding everyone that it can be simple (with no 'fru-fru'). If your chapter or a group of chapters are interested, then let her know.

The next order of business was the Recording Secretary Report, by Venetia Lewallen. Venetia reported that the February Newsletter was published to the ESA Georgia web site and the articles for the April Newsletter will be due April 8, 2024.

The next order of business was the Corresponding Secretary Report, by Kim New. Kim reported that she had received 3 Thank You cards addressed to the Georgia State Council. Kim read the cards to the membership.

- From Jennifer Aldredge Vinson – Thank you for the cards and well wishes for her mother, Beverly.
- From Wanda Price – Thank you for the cards, calls, visits, prayers and well wishes for her recovery.
- From Susan Garner – Thank you to all who made the SERC Convention wonderful (was hosted by GSC).

Then, Kim asked the chapter presidents to pick up their Chapter Packets after lunch.

The next order of business was the Treasurer's Report by Gail Marchant. Gail reported that the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget was approved by the GSC Executive Board yesterday and will be sent out to membership in May. Then, Gail reminded that Vouchers are due to her by April 17<sup>th</sup> and that she will accept original or a copy of the receipt(s) either in-person, mail or via email. April 17<sup>th</sup> is 30 days before Convention, which will provide enough time for all checks to clear and she can close the books and give the books to the Auditor at Convention. Next, Gail described that she had placed a Year-to-Date Incoming Expense Report in the Chapter Packets.

The next order of business was the Parliamentarian Report, by Susan McVey. Susan reported that we have a few Bylaw and Standing Rule changes already submitted to Bylaw Committee and they will be sent to Chapter Presidents 30 days prior to convention. She reminded that if anyone has other suggestions for Bylaw updates, they need to submit them to Bylaw Committee before the 90-day cutoff, which is tomorrow, February 18, 2024.

The next order of business was the Jr Past President Report, by Wanda Price. Wanda reported 5 of 13 Chapters have made contributions to the Disaster Fund as of today, February 17, 2024, for a total of \$727.00. She recognized and thanked the Chapters who have contributed so far. She encouraged everyone to continue to contribute to the Disaster Fund and reminded everyone of the good work the fund provides to those devastated by disasters. We can mail our checks to her and include our chapter name and number and she will get all donations to the IC Disaster Fund Chairman.

The next order of business was the Appointed Board reports.

### **Appointed Board Reports:**

- 1- Association of the Arts Chair, Sharon Smoot reported that Association of the Art submission forms are due no later than April 15<sup>th</sup> and can be found on the ESA Georgia web site under 'Awards'.

She then shared an inspiring poem...

ESA-ers unique art ideas can flow, if you know  
It's always appreciated when you come in May, to show

By getting your own artistic juices to thrive  
Beginner or advanced items means at least you tried

Both right brain and left brain folks need a high five  
So, each entry gets a recognition pin when your art arrives

Show off your willingness to wing it  
Because ESA members know how to 'bring it'!

- 2- Auditor, Pat Griffin – no report.
- 3- Awards Chair, Gail Marchant – Gail encouraged all members to report their donations and turn in to their chapter Awards Chair in order to let their chapter shine this year and also let Georgia shine at IC. The chapter Awards Chair will then use the awards forms on the ESA Georgia web site and fill them out and send to the appropriate awards judge. The forms are due April 15<sup>th</sup> and feel free to call her if you have any questions. For those award judges who are determining the winners of the various awards, the winning results are due to Gail by May 1<sup>st</sup>, to allow time to prepare the Award Certificates. Gail encouraged the judges to review their duties of office because for some awards, the judging must be done by people outside of ESA, which takes extra time. Gail plans to send an email to all the awards judges closer to convention with instructions for how the awards will be presented at the Awards Presentation at convention. Gail put the Awards list of judges in the Chapter Packets.
- 4- Chaplain, Luanne Langmo – no report
- 5- Credentials, Shirley Humphries – Shirley reminded everyone to return voting cards and ID necklaces after the meeting.
- 6- Disaster Fund Chair, Wanda Price – see above ( under the Jr Past President Report)
- 7- Easterseals Chair, Mary Cooper – In Mary's absence, Gennie Gilvin reported that the ESA Georgia web site has been updated with the contact information about the new locations for Easterseals. She also reported that there have been 2 Easterseals donations made via the Turn Around Fund.
- 8- Educational Chair, Theresa McGugan – Theresa reminded the Chapter Awards Chairs to submit the Educational Award forms to her by April 15<sup>th</sup>, so that she will have time to get them judged.
- 9- Finance Chair, Sheryl Gootee – Sheryl reported the income for GSC so far.
 

Pampered Chef Online Sales	\$150	
Pampered Chef Raffle	\$480	(winner Susan Garner)
Gamma Omega Bake Sale	\$206	
Delta Omega 1 <sup>st</sup> Quilt	\$225	(winner Gail Marchant)
Delta Omega 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quilt	\$200	(winner Gennie Gilvin)
Total	\$1,261	
- 10- Foundation Counselor, Sherry Presley – Sherry reported that ESA Foundation donations were \$2137 from April 1, 2023 to February 17, 2024. She also mentioned that she placed information in the Chapter Packets showing your or your chapter's voting rights status for the year 2024, and let her know if you have any questions. She encouraged everyone to share information in our communities about ESAF Grants and spread the word with High Schools and Colleges about the ESAF Scholarships. There were 4 scholarships available to Georgia residents that no one applied for last year.
- 11- Flag Ceremony, Romanda Talley – no report
- 12- Gavelette President, Sherry Presley – Sherry reminded the Gavelettes that their meeting is following this meeting today.
- 13- Hope for Heroes Chair, Vicki Warren – no report
- 14- Leadership Coordinator, Susan Garner – no report
- 15- Philanthropic Chair, Kaye Genovese – Kaye reminded everyone to record and turn in their Philanthropic Reports. These reports that are submitted each year are tabulated at Headquarters and reported to the IRS, which is the source of our 501(c)(3) status. Kaye stressed that it is very important for chapters to prepare and submit Philanthropic Reports each year, even if they do not submit for Awards.
- 16- Photographer, Debbie Lamp'l – no report
- 17- Scrapbook Chair, Alpha Beta Chapter – Venetia reported that the scrapbook for this year will have a page for each chapter and requested all to send in a picture or group of pictures of their chapter. The pictures are needed by May 1, 2024.
- 18- SERC Coordinator, Linda Long – no report
- 19- Social, Shirley Humphries & Marsha Stroud – no report

After a 5-minute break, we continued with Appointed Board reports.



20- St Jude Coordinator, Romanda Talley – In her absence, Susan Knudson made the St Jude Report. Susan asked Pat Griffin, President Alpha Delta, to report on their upcoming St Jude event in April. Pat invited everyone to come and bring guests to their THE HEART OF GIVING – DENIM & DIAMONDS Event on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 5:30pm, with Dinner served at 6:00pm. The event will be at The Sewell Mill in Bremen, GA. Celebration dinner and silent auction to benefit St Jude. \$40 for entertainment and a plated dinner and we need to RSVP by Monday, March 25, 2024.

St Jude Coordinator, Romanda is trying to attend all of our GSC St Jude fundraisers. So far she has attended Kappa Rho’s Walk and Chili Night events. She asks everyone to let her know when we plan an event and she will try to attend.

Then, Susan Knudson reported on the 2 Dream Homes in 2023. The Savannah Dream Home (11 members volunteered) was sold out and raised \$750,000 for St Jude. Our Georgia share (Tier 1) was \$375,000. The Atlanta Dream Home (10 members volunteered) was also sold out and raised \$1,500,000 for St Jude. Our Georgia share (Tier 1) was \$750,000. These 2 Dream Homes total \$1,125,000 for Georgia’s contribution to St Jude this past year. Thank you to all who worked these events. The individual hours and monies for the ESA Dream Home volunteers were distributed, and a photo was taken of all GSC members who volunteered at one of the Dream Homes.

Susan then reported that the dates have been set for Dream Homes in Savannah and Atlanta in 2024. The Atlanta Dream Home needs a Chair and Co-Chair. To maintain Tier 1 status, we must do the work and this is more than just a few hours. We no longer sell tickets at the Dream Homes, they are sold either online, via call center and a few still mail in their tickets. We need volunteers for our 2024 Dream Homes, and volunteers must have a security check. To go through this volunteer security check, send request to this email, [volunteer.stjude.org](mailto:volunteer.stjude.org). Here is the timeline/schedule for the 2024 Dream Homes

SAVANNAH - 2024		ATLANTA - 2024	
April 10	Media Launch	May 16	Media Launch, Tickets on sale Sellathon
April 19	TOS Prize Deadline & Sellathon	June 14	Early Bird Deadline Date
May 17	Early Bird Deadline & Sellathon	June	(exact date TBD) Floor Signing Event
May 30	Sneak Peek	July 11	Sneek Peek Event
June 1	Grand Opening	July 12	Bonus Prize Deadline Date
June 7	Bonus prize Deadline & Sellathon	July 13- August 11	Open House Weekends
June 20	Last Chance Sellathon (put in TV agreement)	August 15	Giveaway
June 26	Giveaway		

COLUMBUS - 2024	
	Dates coming soon

This year, Georgia is getting a third Dream Home, in Columbus, GA – no details have been released yet. Volunteerism is encouraged because if Georgia cannot work this third home, then ALSAC will check with Alabama.

Next, there were folks at ALSAC that did not know that ESA members worked at the Dream Homes. Romanda made sure that these folks now know that Dream Homes are a part of ESA. In 2023, volunteers from ESA spent 4 hours a day in the Savannah Dream Home and 8 to 9 hours a day in the Atlanta Dream Home.

When volunteering or planning for a St Jude event, we no longer have to do a Pre-Form for the event, only a Completed Event Form at the end.

We will be going to a new computer system for St Jude. ALSAC will let us know when training for working on the computers in the office will be held.

Reminder – when we send a donation for a St Jude event, it must be sent to ESA headquarters with a Donation Form that is online, in order for our chapter to receive credit for the event.

21- Web Master, Gennie Gilvin – The ESA Georgia web site has been updated with the new Easterseals contact information.

22- Yearbook Chair, Karen Smith – Karen reported that she is awaiting information from Headquarters and then the Yearbook will be complete and she can send it out.

Break for Lunch and our Chaplain, Luanne Langmo gave our blessing.

After lunch, the next order of business was Unfinished Business.

**Unfinished Business:**

SERC Convention 2023: Susan Knudson thanked everyone for another successful SERC Convention in Georgia. We had 31 Georgia members to attend and 1 guest. There were 121 total members from across the country in attendance and 5 guests, which is 4 more attendees than last year in Florida. She announced a profit of \$2763.09 of which SERC and GSC will each get \$1381.54. She presented a check to President Susan Garner, who then passed it to Treasurer Gail Marchant. The profit was a fortunate result of more money than expected raised in fundraisers, and in Program Ads. They also had some things comp'd at the hotel and other things were donated at no cost to help account for the nice profit.

GSC Convention 2024: Convention Chair, Susan McVey reminded everyone the convention will be May 17-19, 2024 at Unicoi State Park & Lodge in Helen, GA centered around the beautiful Lake Unicoi in the Chattahoochee National Forest. It will be hosted by Alpha Nu, Delta Nu and Sigma Chi. She shared the agenda for May 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Association of the Arts Registration 3:30 – 4:30 (Room closes at 4:30pm for judging)
- Convention Registration Desk 2:00 – 4:00
- Gavelette Meeting 2:00
- Executive Board Meeting (before Noon)
- Explore Helen At your leisure

The Registration fee is \$150. Deadline to register is April 16, 2024. Lodge room rates are \$159 plus tax and lodging fee. These room rates are good for 2 days prior and 2 days after the convention, if anyone would like to extend their stay. The lodge fee includes the State Park Pass and the shuttle to Helen. The Room Reservation Deadline is April 16, 2024.

Next, 2024 Convention Chair, Susan McVey reported the total funds received from fundraisers this weekend for the GSC Convention Fund.

<b>Fundraiser</b>	<b>Amount Raised</b>
50/50 Drawing (total \$245) (Janie Kozel)	\$122.50
Silent Auction (6 items)	\$410.00
GSC Convention Registration Raffle (April 1 <sup>st</sup> drawing)	\$110.00
Handmade Cards	\$105.00
Food Sales	\$100.00
<b>Total Raised this weekend:</b>	<b>\$847.50</b>

GSC Convention 2025: This will be our 75<sup>th</sup> GSC Convention. The convention ‘DIAMOND JUBILEE’ will be May 16-18, 2025 at Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge in Dawsonville, GA. Convention will be hosted by the Gavelettes and Co-chairs will be Susan McVey and Gennie Gilvin. The Registration fee will be \$155. Lodge room rates will be \$169 plus tax and lodging fee. Susan McVey shared that the weekend will begin with a Gavelette luncheon. Plan to enjoy the fire pit and incredible mountain views on the veranda.

IC Convention 2024: The IC Convention 'THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE KANSAS' will be in Overland Park, Kansas. The Kansas Tours have been finalized on the IC web site. Forms for Registration and Program Ads are available on the web site.

IC Convention 2025: The IC Convention 'SOUTHERN SERENADE' will be July 16-19, 2025 at Embassy Suites in Cary, NC, hosted by SERC. No Registration Form is available yet. They are looking for members or chapters to volunteer to help out.

The next order of business was New Business.

**New Business:**

- 1- President Susan Garner asked for the Executive Board Recommendations. Corresponding Secretary, Kim new reported no recommendations at this time.
- 2- Call for SERC Nominations, President Susan asked the membership if anyone was interested in running for a SERC position. There were no responses. The applications must be mailed or emailed to SERC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Tammy Gregg, by June 15, 2024.

**Announcements:**

- 1- Gavelettes' meeting will immediately follow the conclusion of this meeting
- 2- SERC Finance Chapter Donation of \$10 (if not already paid)
- 3- GSC Convention – May 17-19, 2024, 'EXPLORING IN THE MOUNTAINS', Unicoi State Park & Lodge in Helen, GA (Hosted by Sigma Chi, Delta Nu, Alpha Nu). Registration and hotel deadlines are April 16, 2024.
- 4- IC Convention, July 7-14, 2024, Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas – Deadlines are on the web site.
- 5- SERC Convention, October 25-27, 2024, Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Littlerock, Arkansas. No Registration Forms available on the web site yet.
- 6- Chapter Presidents, pick up your Chapter Packets before you leave.

Closing Thought: Chaplain, Luanne Langmo, shared some closing thoughts.

'Take a moment to take care of and appreciate yourself. Nourish your body, mind and soul with the same compassion and dedication you offer to others. In doing so, you become your best and most authentic self, capable of leaving an indelible mark on your world.

You are a remarkable individual and your journey and adventures are uniquely yours. Embrace it with confidence, hope and the unwavering belief in your ability to make a meaningful impact.

Keep shining bright and know that your efforts are deeply valued and appreciated.'

President Susan adjourned the meeting at 12:44pm.

The membership recited the Closing Ritual.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Venetia Lewallen  
2023-2024 GSC Recording Secretary