



Georgia State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha Mid-Year Meeting

Courtyard by Marriott – Atlanta Dunwoody
Atlanta, Georgia
February 14, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 by President Ruth Ann Edge. Susan Knudson, the event chair welcomed everyone to Atlanta. The opening thought was given by Betsy Briamonte, Chaplain. Susan McVey, Second Vice-President led the Pledge of Allegiance and President Ruth Ann led the members in the opening ritual.

President Ruth Ann introduced Gail Marchant, Parliamentarian, advised the “Rules Governing the Meeting,” are printed in the agenda, requesting the members take a few minutes review them.

President Ruth Ann then proceeded to introduce and recognize the guests in attendance (0), members attending a state meeting for the first time (0) and any pledges attending the meeting (0). She also recognized the Member of the Year, Debbie Lamp’l, Alpha Beta; Pledge of the year, Judy Jenkins, Kappa Rho (not attending); Chapter of the Year, Gamma Omega, IC Past Presidents from Georgia Kaye Genovese (not attending) and Pat Griffin (not attending), and SERC Past Presidents from Georgia Romanda Talley and Joy Lynn Tynes.

President, Ruth Ann asked Luanne Langmo, Recording Secretary to conduct a silent roll call for the Executive Board, Appointed Board and Gavelettes and to take an oral roll call of the chapters.

Roll call as follows:

Executive Board:

Office	Name	Present/Absent
President Leadership Coordinator Membership Committee Minutes Committee Newsletter Co-Chair	Ruth Ann Edge	P
First Vice-President Budget Committee Membership Committee Nominating Committee Chair	Sharon Smoot	P
Second Vice-President Membership Director	Susan McVey	P
Recording Secretary Minutes Committee Chair	Luanne Langmo	P
Corresponding Secretary Newsletter Co-Chair Educational Chair	Joy Lynn Tynes	P
Treasurer Budget Committee Chair 2026 GSC Convention Chair	Sheryl Gootee	P
Parliamentarian Bylaws Committee Chair Minutes Committee Awards Chair Historian	Gail Marchant	P
Jr. Past President Disaster Fund Chair Advisor Awards Committee Bylaws Committee Contracts Committee	Susan Knudson	P

Appointed Board and Special Committees:

Office	Name	Present/Absent
Administrative Assistant	Shirley Sams	A
Administrative Assistant	Betsy Briamonte	P
Chaplain	Betsy Briamonte	P
Advisor Budget Committee	Pat Griffin	A
Association of the Arts	Frances Lanier Janie Kozal	A A
Auditor	Stormy Bowie	A
Budget Committee	Donna Moore	A
Credentials Chair	Sherrie Bordeaux	P
Easterseals Chair	Theresa McGugan	A
Finance Project Chair	Connie Presley	P
Flag Ceremony	Kim New	P
Foundation State Counselor Awards Committee Bylaws Committee	Sherry Presley	P
Hope for Heroes Gavelette President	Vicki Warren	P
Philanthropic Chair SERC Coordinator	Susan Gardner	P
Photographer	Debbie Lamp'l	P
Social Chair	Judy Jenkins	A
Webmaster Contracts Chair Newsletter	Gennie Gilvin	P
Yearbook Contracts Committee Installing Officer	Karen Smith	P

Chapter Roll Call:

Chapter	President	Present/ Absent	Members on Roll	Members Present	# of Voting Delegates
Alpha Beta	Stormy Bowie	A	7	6	2
Alpha Delta	Pat Griffin	0			
Alpha Nu	Connie Presley	P	3	2	2
Beta Kappa	Linda Long	A	3	1	1
Beta Sigma	Kaye Kinnebrew	0			
Beta Zeta	Joy Lynn Tynes	P	1	1	1
Delta Iota	Susan Knudson	P	8	5	2
Delta Nu	Mary Cooper	P	2	2	2
Delta Omega	Sharon Smoot	P	2	2	2
Gamma Omega	Theresa McGugan	A	7	2	2
Gamma Sigma	Shirley Humphries	0			
Kappa Rho	Romanda Talley	P	6	1	1
Sigma Chi	Sherry Presley	P	3	2	2

Gavelettes:

Year Presided	Name	Present/Absent
1979-80	Angela Coleman	A
1980-81	Romanda Talley	P
1984-85	Kaye Genovese	A
1985-86	Pat Griffin	A
1986-87	Marsha Stroud	A
1994-95	Linda Long	A
1995-96 2024-25	Susan Knudson	P
2000-01	Shirley Humphries	A
2003-04	Joy Lynn Tynes	P
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	A
2012-13	Sherry Bordeaux	P
2013-14	Gail Marchant	P
2014-15	Sherry Presley	P
2015-16	Frances Lanier	A
2016-17	Stormy Bowie	A
2017-18	Frances Jennings	A
2019-20 2020-21	Kim New	P
2021-22	Vicki Warren	P
2023-24	Susan Gardner	P

Invitational Past State Presidents:

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

President Ruth Ann gave a special recognition to Susan Garner for serving on the International Council Board as Educational Chair and for serving on the Southeastern Regional Council Board as Treasurer.

The Credentials Report was given by Sherrie Bordeaux, Chair as follows:

10 of 13 chapters were represented for a total of: 17 Chapter votes
13 GSC Past Presidents votes
Total votes 30

The Minutes Report was given by Luanne Langmo, Recording Secretary. The minutes for the September, 2025 Fall Board Meeting were approved by the Minutes Committee and posted on the website. Luanne moved that we accept the minutes as posted on the website. No second was needed. Motion carried.

Treasurer, Sheryl Gootee presented the Treasurer's Report as follows:

Checking Account Balance as of 9/2/2025	\$14,206.67
Income:	0
Disbursements:	<u>\$ 1,255.85</u>
Checking Account Balance as of 1/31/2026	\$12,950.82
Savings Account Balance as of 1/31/2026	<u>\$ 6,348.94</u>
Candidates Fund Account Balance as of 1/31/2026	\$ 4,124.34
Total GSC Funds as of 1/31/2026	\$23,424.10

The Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

The Registration Report was given by Karen Smith, Meeting Registration Chair

10 of 13 chapters represented	
Members	26
MAL	0
Guests	0
Total Registered	26
Total # hotel rooms	8

The Membership Report was given by Susan McVey, Second Vice-President

Active Chapters	13
Chapters in Good Standing	13
Jewel Pin Members	57
MAL Members	0
Pledges	0

Elected Officers Reports:

President Ruth Ann Edge reported that she attended the SERC Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. Highlights included seeing Susan Garner installed as the SERC Treasurer and accepting Georgia Awards for 2nd place Ennis Karns Hope for Heroes, 2nd place Jean Freedman “Happiness Is” Philanthropic award and 1st place for Thelma Waggoner ESA Foundation. She presented the certificates to Susan Knudson, 2024-25 GSC President.

Since we met in September for Fall Board Ruth Ann and Joy Lynn have compiled three Jaw-Ja Jonquil Newsletters. Ruth Ann has written five articles for the IC Newsletter, participated in three state president’s zoom calls and one ESAMC zoom training call for the new reporting system for awards.

Angie Butenschoen will be our IC rep and Sandy Fletcher will be our SERC rep at the GSC Convention in May. Please send them a welcome note. Wanda Price, Kappa Rho, has left ESA due to health issues. Joy Lynn has volunteered to take over the Education Chair, replacing Wanda. Ruth Ann also attended Alpha Beta’s “Suncatchers for St. Jude” event and showed her artwork to everyone. Try to attend the scheduled St. Jude events to support GSC chapters.

First Vice-President, Sharon Smoot reported that she has filled all of the positions for elected officers and appointed officers. She reviewed her experiences on the IC Board Leadership Development Experience held for 6 hours on February 8. The theme was “Lead with Kindness” with an emphasis on personal values, consistency and trust.

Second Vice-President, Susan McVey passed out a membership exercise to gather information and to tweak the member’s memory. She asked the following questions: 1. When I was first asked to attend ESA, I was most drawn to... 2. How did you best learn who was who at GSC meetings? 3. Now that I am a member, I am most drawn to... 4. When I am enjoying my ESA favorite things(s), I think how much my friend _____ would like it. 5. What is the status of your ESA sponsor?

Susan challenged the membership to pledge a new member from now to GSC 2026 Convention. She will pay ½ of the membership fee for two new pledges. Get a pair for ½ price. The membership report showed a pledge to MAL with a Savannah address.

She has shared this information. She also has received no bids to hostess the GSC 2028 convention. Is there any destination that you want her to investigate? She will be reaching out to the chapters.

Recording Secretary, Luanne Langmo suggested that Charleston, SC might be a great place to hold convention 2028 with the SC sisters as host. The Embassy Suites was suggested in North Charleston. Luanne will check it out. No formal bid or courtesy bid was submitted. She has the recording secretary forms to submit a copy of motions made from the floor.

Corresponding Secretary, Joy Lynn Tynes reported that she has worked with President Ruth Ann to prepare three issues of the Jaw-Ja Jonquil and helped to prepare for this meeting. She thanks all who submitted articles and helped publish the newsletter. Chapter representatives were asked to come forward to get their Chapter President packets.

Treasurer, Sheryl Gootee has a copy of the Treasurer's Report in the President's packet and will email the proposed 2026-2027 budget to the chapter presidents and the Executive Board.

Parliamentarian, Gail Marchant will be emailing the proposed Bylaw and Standing Rules changes to the chapter presidents and Executive Board. These items will be voted on at the May Convention. The Jaw-Ja Guide as updated and approved will be sent to the Webmaster for placement on the website.

Jr. Past President, Susan Knudson has submitted 4 donation forms for the Disaster Fund, totaling \$315.00. She is hoping to have a lot more chapter donations to the Disaster Fund. The maximum payout to recipients is now \$8,000 and we've donated less than 4% of one claim. We have been fortunate in that no one in Georgia has had a need to file a claim, but that could change in a heartbeat. She has prepared articles for all five of the newsletters.

Appointed Officer's report:

Association of the Arts Romanda Talley for Frances Lanier/Janie Kozal. Keep working on your projects to submit to Janie by April 15. IC will have a picture display of items submitted to the IC Convention during convention in Norfolk, VA.

St. Jude Coordinator, Romanda Talley has encouraged participation in projects for St. Jude in the newsletter and through emails to our President to in-turn send to the chapter presidents. She has attended all zoom meetings with the IC St. Jude Chairman and ESAMC zoom meetings.

There is a new reporting system that is up and running. Here are some bullet points:

- Paper forms are still an option.
- Be sure to have a VMS portal. Anyone not on the list can't work.
- You must submit all separate projects.
- Enter by May 31st to be counted in each year.
- Report by chapter philanthropic chair or individually.
- When filling out your event information to submit, you can lump together donated items. Ex. 50 cans of food or basket with 20 items.
- For Turn-Around Funds be sure to designate the place you want it to go to each time.
- "Completed Event Form" is obsolete. Use new PDF form.
- If information/checks for monies go to St. Jude, allow time for ALSAC to process and then they send information to ESAMC to input your chapter information.
- If it's a State Project, we put in our own information.
- Still report miles and hours for all ALSAC projects.
- Dream Homes – report hours/miles. Include miles and times to banks, P.O. and Dream Homes. Changed from past that was only in Office/in Dream Homes.
- St. Jude person at ESAMC is Nita Hollingsworth. Deena Steele will help, if needed.

Six chapters have made donations in the amount of \$15,489.59. This does not include any Dream Homes. Sherry Presley and Romanda Talley recognized the following members who participated in the Savannah Dream Home: Sharon Smoot, Delta Omega; Judy Jenkins, Monette Horton, Mary Wynn, Wanda Price, Frances Lanier, Janie Kozal and Romanda Talley, Kappa Rho; Annelle Saunders. Gamma Sigma. The Columbus Dream Home participants; Susan and Ernie Garner, Alpha Beta; Sherry Presley, Delta Nu; Sharon Smoot, Delta Omega; Judy Jenkins, Wanda Price, Romanda Talley, Kappa Rho and from Alabama Beth Scott, Joann Perry, Iota Alpha. Sherry Presley gave the Atlanta Dream Home report.

There are three Dream Homes in Georgia this year. Savannah Dream Home will be given away June 2, 2026 and the Atlanta and Columbus Dream Homes have currently had their ground breaking.

The chapter packets will have the new form that is online also and Susan Garner's philanthropic report will be in the packet. Go into your ESA portal and check it out.

Awards Chair, Gail Marchant reviewed guidelines for awards.

- ✓ Keep your personal records to submit your good deeds.
- ✓ Reporting period is April 1-March 31st. Due to the Particular Awards chair by April 15th.
- ✓ Chairmen receiving awards information – review your duties and see if you need some judging – from people outside of ESA members.
- ✓ Awards Chair is requesting the information from each Chapter Awards chair by May 1st. Email is acceptable with submitted documents brought to me at Convention.
- ✓ An instructional email will be sent to each of the Chairs for the awards.
- ✓ Federal mileage travel rate is .70 per mile.

Easterseals Chair, Theresa McGugan (presented by Sheryl Gootee) There have been no chapters reporting any donations. Theresa is encouraging everyone to donate to this worthy cause. The forms are included in the chapter packet. They must be completed and mailed to Theresa by April 15th.

Educational Director, Joy Lynn Tynes is ready to receive your Chapter Educational booklets. She has the judges lined up and excited to read about all of the interesting programs. The forms are found on the GSC website. The chapter packets also include Joy Lynn's mailing address and new guidelines to submit Chapter Educational Books to IC for judging. She thanks Ruth Ann for this appointment and thanks all of the chapters who have emphasized the "E" for education in ESA.

Finance Chair, Connie Presley reminded everyone of the finance items for convention. She asked for every chapter to donate one item valued around \$25-\$50 for the silent auction. It's better to have some items at that price instead of a lot of little items for lesser amounts. Food items will also be sold. Let Connie know what you're bringing so she can make sheet out for items and suggested pricing. 50/50 ticket pages are in the chapter packets. Connie will be Finance Chair for next year and is asking for suggestions/unique ideas for fund raising.

Foundation Director, Sherry Presley reported that this year has been challenging. Numbers are down, scholarship applications and dollar amounts for scholarships are also down. Please use the Turn-A-Round Fund and do a fund-raiser to support the Foundation. Doug Mills sent a notification that the Foundation is back in good standing as a 501(C) 3 organization. There was an issue with the Jean Johnson scholarship not

being listed on our Georgia scholarships. There was some techno glitch that has been corrected.

Hope for Heroes Chair, Vicki Warren reported that GSC chapters participated in “Wreaths Across America” with both buying wreaths and placing wreaths. They also took part in a Veterans Day parade and luncheon. Any donations to charities such as Tunnel to Towers, Wounded Warriors Project and more count toward Hope for Heroes. There is no longer the monthly ice cream social at Trinka Davis Veterans Home. Vicki attended the zoom meeting for the Service Reporting System. If you need help in that, let Vicki know.

Philanthropic Chair, Susan Garner has been tasked with introducing the new Service Reporting System and providing support for a smooth rollout with all of our chapters. Key points are:

- Service reporting now lives in one centralized system within the Membership portal.
- State leaders have access to state level reports in order to monitor trends, identify gaps and support chapters.
- Reports are a tool for visibility and encouragement – not enforcement.
- If a chapter doesn't have a designated Service Reporter, the chapter President becomes the primary contact.
- All projects and service gets recorded into this system: ESA led events, independent, etc.
- Any service already reported should be entered into the system by May 31, 2026 to help establish a baseline.
- Training will be ongoing.
- Live launch will be February 16th.
- Deena Steele is the point of contact at ESAMC

SERC Coordinator, Susan Garner reviewed the information on the 2026 SERC conference being held in Kissimmee, FL October 23-24, 2026. Further information is on the GSC website. Just scroll down and click on the SERC tab. Dates to remember: hotel reservations by September 23rd; registration by October 15th and Bunco for St. Jude on Friday night October 15th. Susan is requesting your chapter donation of \$15 to support SERC.

Unfinished Business:

Georgia State Convention 2026 report given by Sheryl Gootee, Chair reported Gamma Omega is working hard to make this “Somewhere In Time” memorable. She is encouraging everyone to get their registration in so they can determine head count. Gin West brought up the boxes for the 50/50 drawing and the registration drawing. Venetia won the 50/50 drawing and Susan Knudson is the proud owner of the free registration.

Georgia State Convention 2027 report was given by Romanda Talley, Chair. The convention will be in Pooler, GA at the Embassy Suites May 14-16, 2027. The rooms will start at \$169/night. Registration will be \$160. Romanda will have all of the particulars at convention. Bring your checkbook to take part in an incentive in May.

New Business:

Executive Board Recommendation, Joy Lynn Tynes.

The Executive Board would like to recommend the following: An overage for payment to the New Leadership (President’s Retreat) transportation has been requested in the 2025-26 budget line item E12a. The current budget amount is \$550. The flight amount from Augusta, GA to St. Louis, MO was \$1013.41. The difference between the paid flight and the budget is \$463.41. This amount is being requested for approval. Following discussion, the recommendation was voted on and approved.

SERC Nominations Kim New moved that Susan Garner be nominated for the SERC office of her choosing. Motion seconded by Connie Presley. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- Thank you to Delta Iota for hosting the meeting.
- SERC chapter donation of \$15.
- IC Chapter dues by April 30, 2026 to Brenda Campbell.
- 2026 GSC Convention May 22-24 in Aiken, SC, deadline April 21, 2026.
- IC Convention July 15-19 Sheraton Norfolk Waterside, Norfolk, VA.
- SERC Conference October 23-24 in Kissimmee, FL.
- Gavelette meeting following conclusion of this meeting
- Chapter presidents, pick up your packets

Closing Thought was given by Betsy Briamonte, Chaplain

Meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Closing ritual lead by Ruth Ann Edge, President

Luanne Langmo

Georgia State Recording Secretary