



Georgia State Council
Seventy-Sixth Annual Convention
"Somewhere In Time"
Houndslake Country Club – Aiken, South Carolina
May 22 – 24, 2026

First General Assembly Saturday May 23, 2026

Second Vice President Susan McVey called the Assembly to be seated at 8:30 a.m. Chaplain Betsy Briamonte gave the Opening Thought.

The Presentation of the Flags was presented by Pat Griffin, Past IC President. The ceremony featured Marvin Gootee, a highly decorated Army veteran who carried the American Flag. Marvin is the husband of Treasurer Sheryl Gootee.

Pat led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Ruth Ann Edge welcomed everyone to the Seventy-Sixth Annual GSC Convention, "Somewhere in Time," hosted by Gamma Omega. She thanked Pat for the beautiful Flag Ceremony.

President Ruth Ann declared the Annual Convention in session at 8:57am. She led the membership in the Opening Ritual.

President Ruth Ann presented Sheryl Gootee Convention Chair. Sheryl welcomed everyone to the convention. The Gamma Omega sisters were all dressed in 1776 attire to complement the Convention theme and our "English Tea" lunch.

President Ruth Ann welcomed IC Representative Angie Butenschoen First Vice President/President Elect and SERC Representative Susan Garner, SERC Treasurer.

President Ruth Ann recognized Past IC Presidents Kaye Genovese and Pat Griffin. Kaye served from 1993 to 1994, and Pat served from 2002 to 2003.

She also recognized Past SERC Presidents Romanda Talley and Joy Lynn Tynes. Romanda served from 1986 to 1987, and Joy Lynn served from 2009 to 2010.

She went on to recognize Susan Garner who is serving on the IC Appointed Board as Educational Director and, on the SERC, Executive Board as Treasurer.

She recognized the current “Outstanding Pledge of the Year” Judy Jenkins, who was not in attendance, “Outstanding Member of the Year” Debbie Lamp’l and “Outstanding Chapter of the Year” Gamma Omega.

Recording Secretary Luanne Langmo conducted the roll call as follows:

EXECUTIVE BOARD	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
President Leadership Coordinator Minutes Committee Newsletter Co-Chair	Ruth Ann Edge	X	
First Vice-President Budget Committee Membership Committee Nominating Committee Chair	Sharon Smoot	X	
Second Vice-President Membership Committee	Susan McVey	X	
Recording Secretary Minutes Committee Chair	Luanne Langmo	X	
Corresponding Secretary Newsletter Co-Chair Education Director	Joy Lynn Tynes	X	
Treasurer Budget Committee Chair	Sheryl Gootee	X	
Parliamentarian Awards Chair Historian Bylaws Committee Chair Minutes Committee	Gail Marchant	X	
Jr. Past President Disaster Fund Chair Advisor Bylaws Committee Contracts Committee	Susan Knudson	X	

APPOINTED OFFICERS	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Administrative Assistant	Shirley Sams		X
Administrative Assistant Chaplain	Betsy Briamonte	X	
Advisor Flag Ceremony	Pat Griffin	X	
Association of the Arts Co- Chairs	Frances Lanier and Janie Kozal	X	
Auditor	Stormy Bowie		X
Credentials Chair	Sherrie Bordeaux	X	
Easterseals Chair	Theresa McGugan	X	
Finance Director	Connie Presley	X	
Foundation State Counselor Bylaws Committee Awards Committee	Sherry Presley	X	
Hope for Heroes Gavelette President	Vicki Warren	X	
Philanthropic Chair SERC Coordinator	Susan Garner	X	
Photographer	Debbie Lamp'l	X	
Social Director	Judy Jenkins		X
St. Jude Coordinator	Romanda Talley	X	
Yearbook Chair Contracts Committee Installing Officer	Karen Smith	X	
Webmaster Contracts Committee Chair	Gennie Gilvin		X

Chapter Roll

Call:

Chapter	President	Present/ Absent	Members on Roll	Members Present	# of Voting Delegates Present
Alpha Beta	Stormy Bowie	A	7	4	2
Alpha Delta	Pat Griffin	P	6	1	1
Alpha Nu	Connie Presley	P	3	1	1

Beta Kappa	Linda Long	A	3	1	1
Beta Sigma	Kaye Kinnebrew	A			
Beta Zeta	Joy Lynn Tynes	P	1	1	1
Delta Iota	Susan Knudson	P	6	6	2
Delta Nu	Mary Cooper	P	2	2	2
Delta Omega	Sharon Smoot	P	2	2	2
Gamma Omega	Sheryl Gootee	P	7	7	2
Gamma Sigma	Shirley Humphries	A			
Kappa Rho	Romanda Talley	P	5	3	2
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	P
1994-95	Linda Long	A
1995-96	Susan Knudson	
2024-25		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	A
2011-12	Donna Moore	A
2012-13	Sherry 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	A
2020-21		
2021-22	Vicki Warren	P
2023-24	Susan Garner	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 asked for anyone who was not recognized to please stand. Guests recognized were Sandy Cary, Sherrie Bordeaux's sister and Emily Rayburn, Sherry Presley's niece.

Pledges in attendance 0

First time attendees 2

MAL in attendance 0

Guests present 2

Convention registration report was given by Registration Chair Geri Barborek as follows:

Members 32

MAL 0

Guests 6

Total Registered 38

Number of rooms 16

Credentials Chair Sherrie Bordeaux gave the Credentials Report as follows:

Chapter votes 11 of 13 Chapters Represented for a total of:

18 Chapter Votes

13 Gavelette Votes

1 Presidents Vote

Total votes 32

The next order of business is the Minutes Report for the 2026 Mid-Year Meeting.

Recording Secretary Luanne Langmo moved that the minutes of the 2026 Mid-Year Meeting be accepted as posted on the GSC Website. Coming from a committee, there is no second needed. With no discussion, the motion was carried.

Parliamentarian Gail reported that the Rules of Georgia State Convention/Election (Article XIII) were printed in the convention booklet. After giving the membership time to review them, there were no questions.

The next order of business was the report of the Nominating Committee by Committee Chair Sharon Smoot.

First Vice President/President Elect Sharon reported that there was a problem with a candidate's qualifications, but that the problem was resolved.

She then read the official ballot and asked each candidate to come to the front of the room as their name was called. The candidates were:

Sharon Smoot, Delta Omega, for the Office of President.

Susan McVey, Sigma Chi, for the Office of First Vice President.

Sheryl Gootee, Gamma Omega, for the Office of Second Vice President.

Theresa McGugan, Gamma Omega, for the Office of Recording Secretary.

Vicki Warren, Delta Nu, for the Office of Treasurer.

Luanne Langmo, Delta Omega, for the Office of Corresponding Secretary.

Susan Knudson, Delta Iota, for the Office of Parliamentarian.

Ruth Ann Edge, Delta Iota, for the Office of Junior Past President/Disaster Fund Chair.

She moved that the slate of officers be accepted by acclamation.

President Ruth Ann stated that coming from a committee the motion does not require a second. She asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion was carried. The membership was given five minutes for pictures.

The First General Assembly recessed for a 15-minute break at 9:30, reconvening at 9:45.

The next order of business was the Proposed Bylaw and Standing Rule Changes.

Parliamentarian Gail Marchant gave the background of the proposed Bylaw and Standing Rule changes and thanked the Bylaws Committee members, Susan Knudson and Sherry Presley for their assistance. She also updated the Jaw-Ja Guide, which will be posted on the website.

Parliamentarian Gail asked if there was any discussion pertaining to either the Proposed Changes to the Bylaws or Standing Rules. Pat Griffin, Alpha Delta #5521 moved to amend Proposed Article VIII, Section 2c to add, chapter president “for a minimum of one year” to the end of the first sentence. Vickie Warren, Delta Nu #5552 seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was carried.

Romanda Talley, Kappa Rho #5125 moved that the remaining proposed Bylaws and Standing Rule changes be voted on Ad seriatim. Pat Griffin, Alpha Delta #5521 seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

The Next order of Business was Unfinished Business. There was no Unfinished Business.

The Next Order of Business was New Business.

Treasurer Sheryl Gootee reviewed the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget. She highlighted the changes from last year’s budget. The membership number was changed from 60 to 55. Line item E12a and E12b in reference to the First Vice President’s IC Leadership Retreat was left in as a place holder. The reason for this is that IC has not made a decision about Leadership. Line Item E13b, Gavel Guard, was changed from \$20 to \$23 due to price increase. Sheryl moved for adoption of the proposed budget for 2026-2027. Coming from a Committee, the motion did not require a second. The motion was carried.

The Next Order of Business was the Officer Reports.

Chaplain Betsy Briamonte thanked Ruth Ann and Susie for their appointments for two years as Chaplain. She reported this year she received notification of the death of Stephanie Lynch’s nephew Ariel Beltrano, Kaye Genevese’s broken hip caused by a fall, and a fire at Frances Lanier’s home.

Disaster Fund Chair Susan Knudson reported she sent six donation forms to the IC Disaster Fund Chair. Georgia had 10 of 13 chapters participate for a total of \$845. She submitted six articles for the newsletter and prepared the winner's report for the Awards Chair. The Disaster Fund books are ready for audit.

The Easterseals report was given by Joan Basile for Easterseals Chair Theresa McGugan. Five chapters donated a total of \$1,306. There was a total of \$35 goods donated, 67 hours donated and 547 miles driven.

Gavelette President Vickie Warren reported that there are 26 past presidents and 2 Invitational Past Presidents. Connie Presley will be president of the Gavelettes for 2026-2027. The Gavelettes look forward to helping the GSC in any way possible.

The Membership Report was given by Susan McVey. There were four long time members who have gone inactive; Kaye Genovese, Wanda Price, Shirley Sams and Mary Wynn.

The membership report showed 52 members in 13 active chapters and 15 MALs.

Hope for Heroes Chair Vicki Warren reported on how the chapters had helped Veterans Homes, celebrated Veterans Day, participated in Wreaths Across America, parades and other events. She urged each chapter to honor veterans and first responders in any way.

Philanthropic Chair Susan Garner reported that there were 7 chapters who reported \$1,102,168 and 3,109 hours.

SERC Representative Susan Garner gave the SERC message. She shared her background and thanked her Alpha Beta Chapter for its support. She followed the theme of the SERC President, "Beyond the Rainbow," using the colors of the rainbow to bring meaning by volunteering, being present, caring and sharing our colors with others. She conducted a Rainbow Trivia game and urged us to support our ESA endeavors.

IC Representative Angie Butenschoen gave the IC message. She reviewed the changes that will take place at the convention in Norfolk, Virginia. There will be a Recognition Lunch instead of an Awards Luncheon. She discussed looking at the amazing progress ESA had made coming from a book club to now. However, our decline in membership is a big problem. The IC Board is trying new things and working through logistics. Angie said, "change isn't easy."

President Ruth Ann made special presentations to IC Representative, Angie Butenschoen, and SERC Representative, Susan Garner. The Georgia State Council gifted each representative a set of two Crystal Bud Vases with butterflies on each one.

Convention Chair Romanda Talley gave the 2027 Convention report. Beta Zeta, Gamma Sigma and Kappa Rho are the hosts. Convention will be at the Embassy Suites in Pooler/Savannah.

The theme is “ESA is Cooler in Pooler.” The registration fee is \$160. This weekend there was a registration special of \$155. The dates are May 14-16, 2027.

Second Vice President Susan McVey reported on the 2028 convention search. Susan reported that due to our current group size, negotiating rates has certainly been a challenge. She and Luanne had reviewed a few hotel proposals for the North Charleston area. They had not found a feasible option. The meeting room rates and food cost were expensive. She was still looking for Charleston locations but is expanding the search area to see what other options are available. She asked for our continued patience as they select our 2028 convention location.

Foundation Chair, Sherry Presley reported that membership was down. Dues went from \$15 to \$40 and that may have been a hardship for some. Members would like to know the reasoning behind the large increase of the dues. IC Rep. Angie shared the thoughts of the Foundation Board were that the membership dues had not increased in several years and they felt this was a necessary move.

Sherry encouraged chapters to join the Foundation. Discussion followed regarding available scholarships to ESA members’ families. A suggestion was made to start a scholarship just for ESA members and families. Next year the Jean Johnson scholarship will award 2 scholarships.

Meeting recessed at 11:11 to reconvene at 9:30 Sunday for the Second General Assembly.

Sunday, May 24

Chaplain Betsy Briamonte conducted the Celebration of Life Service.

Corresponding Secretary Joy Lynn Tyne conducted the Pinning Ceremony with the following recipients earning their years of service:

Romanda Talley, 55 years

Pat Griffin, 50 years

Karen Smith, 45 years

Ruth Ann Edge, 35 years

Janie Kozal, 20 years

Gail Marchant, 20 years

Sherry Presley, 20 years

Sheryl Gootee, 5 years.

Second General Assembly, May 24, 2026

President Ruth Ann Edge called the Second General Assembly to order at 9:37 a.m.

Chaplain Betsy Briamonte gave the thought for the day.

Recording Secretary Luanne Langmo noted the roll call changes. Kappa Rho had two members present and Delta Iota had five members present.

Treasurer Sheryl Gootee presented the Treasurer's report as follows:

Balance on hand as of 1/31/2026	\$12,950.82
Income	-0-
Disbursements	<u>\$1,612.23</u>
Balance on hand 4/30/2026	\$11,338.59
Savings balance on hand 4/30/2026	\$6,349.09
Candidates Fund on hand 4/30/2026	<u>\$4,124.45</u>
Total on hand 4/30/2026	\$21,812.13

Finance Chair Connie Presley reported that the 50/50 amount raised was \$558.00. The drawing was held with Sheryl Gootee being the winner of \$279.00.

The amounts raised for the Georgia State Council Treasury were as follows:

50/50	\$279.00
Silent Auction	\$210.00
Food Items	<u>\$197.00</u>
Total	\$686.00

The next order of business was Communication.

Corresponding Secretary Joy Lynn Tynes distributed the Chapter Presidents packets. She read a note from a Kappa Rho member, Judy Jenkins, updating her family's current health concerns and events.

Joy Lynn read the International Council ballot. The ballot was as follows:

Office of President,

Angie Butenschoen, Rho Chi, Missouri

Office of First Vice President/President Elect:

Margaret Kramer, Beta Iota, Oklahoma

Office of Second Vice President,

Brenda Campbell, Alpha Xi, Indiana

Office of Treasurer,

Angie Fairbanks, Epsilon Eta, Kansas

Patricia Gale, Eta Pi, Arizona

Office of Recording Secretary,

Brenda Fields, Alpha Nu, Missouri

Office of Workshop Coordinator,

Sheri Meyer-Harden, Beta Beta, Kansas

Lynn Howley, Gamma Pi, Indiana

Office of Parliamentarian,

Brenda O'Neill Alpha Beta, Texas

2026-2027 Corresponding Secretary,

Brittany Covey, Rho Chi, Missouri

President Ruth Ann reminded chapters to send their proxy vote to the Incoming President Sharon Smoot, if they chose to send their vote in this manner. Sharon will send you the proxy form so you can select a delegate to carry your proxy.

On behalf of the membership of the Georgia State Council, she presented President Ruth Ann with a thank you gift for her leadership this year. The gift was two antique Murano glass paperweights, which would add to her existing collection. Ruth Ann thanked all for the gifts.

President Ruth Ann gave her retiring message. She expressed what an honor it had been serving as president this year. There had been challenges, but serving was always an honor. She thanked everyone for their support and help. She dismissed her special appointments. And again, thanked all the officers for "Spreading Your Wings and Flying with ESA" this year.

President Ruth Ann welcomed Sharon Smoot, our newly elected 2026-2027 Georgia State Council President, to the front of the room. This was followed by the Lowering and Raising of the Gavels. Susan Knudson lowered Ruth Ann's gavel guard and Luanne Langmo raised Sharon Smoot's gavel guard.

Newly elected President Sharon gave her message of “Encourage, Support and Appreciate” to the membership. She introduced her 2026-2027 Executive Board and Appointed Boards.

President Ruth Ann presented the gavel to our new 2026-2027 President Sharon.

Gavelette President Vicki Warren inducted Ruth Ann into the Gavelettes. The Gavelettes welcomed Ruth Ann by presenting her with voting cards. As she has moved from being an Invitational Gavelette to a Voting Gavelette. She now has voting privileges during a Georgia State meeting.

The next order of business was Announcements.

Following Saturday’s English Awards Tea, Chair Gail Marchant and the Association of the Arts Co-Chairs, Frances Lanier and Janie Kozal conducted the Award Presentation for both, with select awards withheld until the banquet later in the evening.

On Saturday night the Installation of the 2026-2027 GSC Executive Board was conducted by Romanda Talley. Following the Installation and banquet the Awards Presentation was conducted by Awards Chair Gail Marchant, with the following highlights:

Chapter of the Year, Alpha Beta

Member of the Year, Theresa McGugan

St. Jude Chair Romanda Talley conducted a ceremony to announce and display the total monies raised for St. Jude this year was \$1,600,575.51.

Sherrie Presley said that in September our Council was going to get a new pledge, her niece Emily Rayburn, who was also a guest at the convention.

Alpha Delta raised \$13,675 at their last St, Jude event.

Sheryl Gootee thanked Gamma Omega, the Houndslake Country Club staff, and the Houndslake Inn staff for a job well done.

Connie Presley shared that Gail Gilvin had been in the hospital for 14 days. She was making some improvement.

Sherry Bordeaux advised that Linda Long could use some encouragement as she continues her health challenges from previous surgery.

Seven members will be attending the IC Convention in Norfolk.

Chaplain Betsy Briamonte gave her closing thoughts.

Pat Griffin conducted the retiring of the flags with the theme of “As Time Goes By”.

President Ruth Ann declared the 76th Annual Georgia State Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha officially closed at 10:27 am. She led the membership in the reciting of Closing Ritual.

Submitted by:

Ruth Ann Edge

Gail Marchant

Minutes Committee Members