



Jawja Jonquil

NEWSLETTER

Georgia State Council

Volume 35, Issue 4, December 2023

2023-2024
Georgia State Council
Executive Board

- President... **Susan** Garner
- Vice-President... **Susan** Knudson
- Second Vice-President... **Ruth Ann** Edge
- Recording Secretary... **Venefia** Lewallen
- Corresponding Secretary... **Kim** New
- Treasurer... **Gail** Marchant
- Parliamentarian... **Susan** McVey
- Jr. Past President... **Wanda** Price

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*** ESA Registration Forms can always be found in the back of the newsletter.*



Upcoming Events...

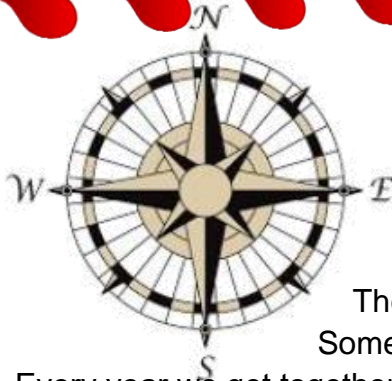
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|-------------------|--|
| Jan 31, 2024 | GSC Mid-Year Registration due |
| February 17, 2024 | GSC Mid-Year, in Aiken, SC |
| April 16, 2024 | GSC Convention Registration due |
| April 16, 2024 | Unicoi Reservation due... for GSC Convention |
| April 15, 2024 | GSC Awards and Association of the Arts Forms due |
| May 17-19, 2024 | GSC Convention, Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA |

Merry Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

Message from our President...



Susan Garner



Hello to my Georgia ESA family,

The holiday season is here and I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Some of my fondest memories of this season is with my Alpha Beta Chapter. Every year we get together and have a "Dirty Santa" gift swapping. It can get crazy sometimes (LOL)! The following are some pictures from Christmases past.



Kim Shepherd and Kim New - 2015



Venetia Lewallen and Betty Reese - 2015



Stormy Bowie, Susan Garner, Dana Keeter, Danielle Collins, Payton Lewallen - 2021



Crazy Christmas socks - 2015



Debbie Lamp'l and Dana Keeter - 2021

What a great time we have had over the years!

I hope by now that everyone has received their Christmas card from the GSC Executive Board and we had fun creating this memorable card for you.

I believe I can safely say that our recent SERC Convention was a success! Thanks to everyone who helped in making things run smoothly, and a great big congratulations to Romanda Talley and Susie Knudson. What a wonderful job they did in co-chairing this convention.



Georgia State Council members attending SERC Convention 2023

Georgia took home the following awards:

- Adelaide Smith Disaster Fund Award – Second Place with \$26.30 per member
- Jean Freeman “Happiness Is” Philanthropic Award – First Place with \$115.85 per member
- Joan Mason St. Jude Award – Third Place with 38% of chapters participating
- SERC Educational Reporting Award – Third Place with 38% of chapters participating
- Barbara Riley Circle of Life Award – Second Place with \$6,985.81 per member
- Jan Lee Easterseals Award – Second Place with \$26.67 per member
- Ennis Karns Hope for Heroes Award – Second Place with \$305.90 per member

In the Association of the Arts, Georgia members took home the following awards:

- Division IV (Visual Arts) – Romanda Talley, Second Place with “Fly on My Face”
- Division IV (Visual Arts) – Vicki Warren, Third Place with “Spring at Prater’s Mill”
- Division VI (Holiday Art) – Gennie Gilvin, First Place with “Georgia Wooden Christmas Ornament”
- Division VI (Holiday Art) – Wanda Price, Second Place with “And The Band Played On Wreath”
- Division VII (Wearable Art) – Sherry Presley, First Place with “Faith Bracelet”
- Division VIII (Mixed Media) – Gennie Gilvin, Second Place with “Georgia Wooden Pen”
- Division VIII (Mixed Media) – Sherry Presley, Third Place with “Nature”

Congratulations to Georgia for an awesome year of giving back to the community and to our talented members in the Association of the Arts.

Our next meeting coming up will be our Mid-Year meeting on February 17, 2024 in Aiken, South Carolina. If you have not sent in your registration form, please get those in by January 31, 2024. The form is attached for your convenience and also has hotel information provided on it as well.

*** Please remember to bring grooming items to be donated to the abused women's center.*

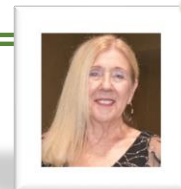
May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Susan Garner
GSC President 2023-2024
ESA . . . Adventure Awaits



Messages from our Boards

GSC VICE-PRESIDENT
SUSAN KNUDSON



Holiday memories always brings to mind my chapter, Delta Iota's annual Christmas party and this year was no exception. We had new friends and returning friends – some who had not been with us for a few years, attend the party. We had good food, good spirits and of course, Dirty Santa. We are trying to convince several friends who were there and are not members to join us. I do not know if we will be successful in the recruitment this year, but if not, we will keep trying. So, when you are celebrating this wonderful season that is about giving, sharing, and making memories, remember that it is the perfect opportunity to share ESA with friends, friends of friends and family.

This season also includes bringing in the New Year. For many, it has been a rough year, and I certainly cannot predict what the new year will bring except new opportunities. To help ensure we leave the past behind, remember an old tradition – when the clock strikes midnight on December 31, open the front door wide to let the old year out and the new year in. One opportunity that is available to any, and all is service to our Georgia State Council. I will be sending out nomination forms near

the end of January for elected offices, but if that is not the opportunity you want, please let me know what appointed position you would consider.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
SUSIE KNUDSON
GSC 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

GSC SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
RUTH ANN EDGE



Magical Memories of Christmas

Christmas is a magical time for little children, and all those who love Christmas. The tree, lights, gifts, music and the smells and sounds of Christmas are magical.



Until my Dad passed away when I was eleven we lived on a farm. Each December was an adventure as we walked the fields and woods looking for the perfect tree. As soon as we found it my Dad would cut it down, and we would carry it back to our house. We would pop popcorn and string it on thread to make a garland for the tree. Mother and Dad would put the lights on the tree, and then my sister and I would decorate it. Our older sister and brothers were already living away from the farm.

The house would be filled with the smells of baked cakes and pies. And the one smell that always brings back happy memories of Christmas is the smell of oranges and tangerines. Our stockings would always be filled with pecans, walnuts, fruit and hard candies. It was a simpler time in life, peaceful and full of love and laughter.

Sometimes I wish I could go back to that time of my life and relive those magical memories. Life moves on, and so I have made happy memories with my Daughter, Granddaughters and Son-in-Law. Each year I look forward to making new memories with them.

I want to wish all my ESA Family a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I hope each of us remembers the reason we are celebrating Christmas. May our Lord and Savior Reign over us and protect us.

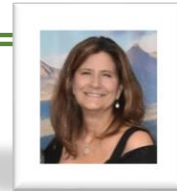
Ruth Ann Edge
GSC 2nd Vice President



Dear Santa,
It was my sister's fault.

GSC RECORDING SECRETARY

VENETIA LEWALLEN



I love the way my house 'feels' when decorated for Christmas. I am no Martha Stewart, but the thinga-ma-bobs and dooz-its all have a history and a story.

My oldest battery powered reindeer still sways back and forth as it sings a song that is hardly recognizable. It is now a hit with my grandchildren – same as it was with my children.



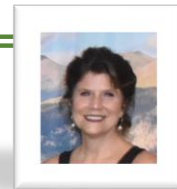
Many people go NUTS over nutcrackers... and **overly** place them in every corner, shelf, nook and cranny of their home. I am one of these people. My favorite nutcracker is flat and 5 feet tall and has buttons or gold trim that has to be hot-glued back together every other Christmas. But, if you turn it around and look on the back, you will find height charts for each of my 7 grandchildren... with marks from their first Christmas to now.

Merry Christmas Everyone...! and may your 2023 memories and adventures be many.

Venetia Lewallen
GSC Recording Secretary

GSC CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

KIM NEW



Hey my ESA family,

The holiday season is finally upon us, and it's time to spread joy and cheer to all those around us. As we gather with our loved ones, exchange gifts, and indulge in delicious feasts, let us not forget the true essence of this festive time - love, gratitude, and togetherness.

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and the hope he brings to the world. It is a time to reflect on the blessings we have received throughout the year and express our gratitude for them. It is a time to extend a helping hand to those in need and share our abundance with others.

During this holiday season, let us remember to cherish the moments spent with family and friends. Whether it's decorating the Christmas tree, singing carols, or simply enjoying a warm cup of cocoa by the fireplace, these small gestures create lasting memories that we will treasure for years to come.

As we bid farewell to the current year and welcome the new one, let us embrace the opportunity for a fresh start. The new year brings with it a sense of hope and the chance to set new goals and aspirations. It is a time to reflect on the lessons learned and make positive changes in our lives.

In the midst of the festivities, let us also think of those who may be feeling lonely or going through difficult times. Reach out to them, lend a listening ear, or offer a helping hand. Small acts of kindness can make a world of difference and bring light into someone's life.



As we exchange gifts, let us remember that the greatest gift we can give is love. Love knows no boundaries and has the power to heal, unite, and bring joy to all. Let us spread love not only during this holiday season but throughout the year, making the world a better place one act of kindness at a time.

So, as we gather around the Christmas tree, let the love of the season fill our homes, our hearts, and our lives. May this Christmas be a time of joy, peace, and happiness for all. And as we step into the new year, may it bring us renewed hope, endless possibilities, and the courage to chase our dreams.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours!

Kim New
Corresponding Secretary

GSC JR. PAST PRESIDENT

WANDA PRICE



Christmas Greetings to Everyone,

I wanted to extend Christmas blessings to all Georgia State Council Members. Hoping that you will have a joyful season spending time and creating cherished memories with your family and friends.

As we quickly approach the end of 2023, I have often thought of our fellow ESA members who have experienced unfortunate life events and disasters leading to their wishes and dreams being unfulfilled. By donating to the Disaster Fund, you can Help !! This can be sent as an individual gift or as a Chapter contribution. A sincere thank you to those who have already given. It is a great feeling to know you are contributing to a fund that can really benefit someone who is in need.

This is also a perfect time to reflect on our past. For me, many fond ESA memories have occurred during this holiday time. One that quickly comes to mind was traveling across the state in 2022 with Romanda Talley. We drove to the Delta Iota Christmas party that was hosted by Susie Knudson in her beautiful home. Wow ! So many fun memories I could share ...!

Please Don't Forget to Donate. May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ESA Hugs,

Wanda Price
Georgia State ESA 2023-2024 Disaster Fund Chairman

GSC CHAPLIN

Luanne Langmo



A Christmas message from your Chaplain



As we approach the festive season, I am filled with gratitude for the warmth and generosity that radiate from each member of our wonderful organization. Christmas is a time of reflection, joy, and celebration of love, and it is heartening to witness the impact we collectively make through our shared commitment to making a positive difference.

In this season of togetherness, let us celebrate the rich tapestry of diversity that defines our group. Our collective strength lies in the unique perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences that each of us brings to the table.

May this season be a time of unity, compassion and joy. Let us continue to work together, embracing the source of our strength and spreading the light of kindness to those we serve. In the true spirit of Christmas, may our efforts shine brightly, bringing hope and warmth to all.

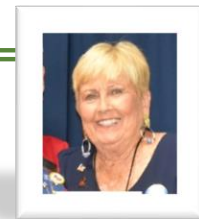
Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas filled with love, peace and the joy of sharing.

Blessings,

Luanne

ST JUDE

ROMANDA TALLEY – CHAIRMAN



Recently, we had a visiting Priest and he spoke on the simple things in life for Christmas and then he asked two questions: “How many of you got under clothing for Christmas when you were younger,” and then he asked, “How many of you got an orange and candy in your stocking?” Frances Lanier was sitting where she could see the hands that responded to the above questions. Yep, all older members in the church raised their hands. The younger generation did not raise their hands and most likely didn’t know why so many older members were smiling when they did raise their hands. Now, you want to know how that ties in with my St. Jude Report.



Simple...give simple, needy items to your family and friends and send the rest of the money you save to St. Jude.

Money saved and sent to help the children that cannot enjoy their Christmas at home and with loved ones.

Okay, ESA members in Georgia...send something extra to St. Jude this month. Leave off a gift to a friend. Instead, take the money you were going to spend on her/him and go visit them or invite them to your house. Let them know you sent donation to St. Jude for their Christmas present, in lieu of a material item for Christmas.

Yes, I raised my hand to both questions mentioned in the first paragraph. Immediately, I thought of those “days of the week” under clothing that I got and I was so excited and told everyone I knew every day I was wearing the day of the week under clothing . This year I was shocked when my grandsons wanted some more of those “buck naked” under pants that I gave them last year. Yes, I was excited to know they wanted simpler things in lieu of big electronic items.

Don't forget the “guy in the red suit” ringing his bell in front of stores. Drop a few coins/bills into that red bucket and help them, too.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Romanda Talley
Georgia St. Jude Chairman

ASSOCIATION OF THE ARTS

SHARON SMOOT – CHAIRMAN



Those creative juices flowing?
You have more talent than you think so make a creative thing - maybe for the first time. Remember, it is just your Georgia family that will see it so... give it an out-of-the-box try!

Special Note: for everyone that brings in something for Association of the Arts room for our May gathering, each person will get a special recognition pin to let people know you made something and said to yourself - "I'm going to JUST DO IT!"

Happy Holidays to All,

Sharon

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas.
But if the white runs out, I'll drink the red.



Take a Tour...

WITH OUR GSC CHAPTERS...

We are excited to hear from our amazing GSC Chapters from all over the state of Georgia and beyond.



Chapter Brag Time for this issue :
Delta Nu & **Delta Omega**.

DELTA NU (CALHOUN)

VICKI WARREN – CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Even though we are small, we still have been busy. Mary Cooper and I attended Leadership and Fall Board and enjoyed seeing everyone.

Our chapter sponsors the monthly Ice Cream Social at the Trinka Davis Veterans Home along with the Patriot Guard Riders. This has been a blessing for us. We have invited other chapters to join us and several have stepped up.

Mary had knee replacement surgery on September 27 and on that same day we lost our dear member and past State President, Debbie Gore. She will be missed by not only Mary and me but by the whole State as well. Mary was not able to go the SERC but was there in spirit. Our chapter, along with Beta Kappa Chapter, hosted the Friday night mixer at SERC. Our theme was “Movie Night in Georgia” and we highlighted movies that were filmed in Georgia.

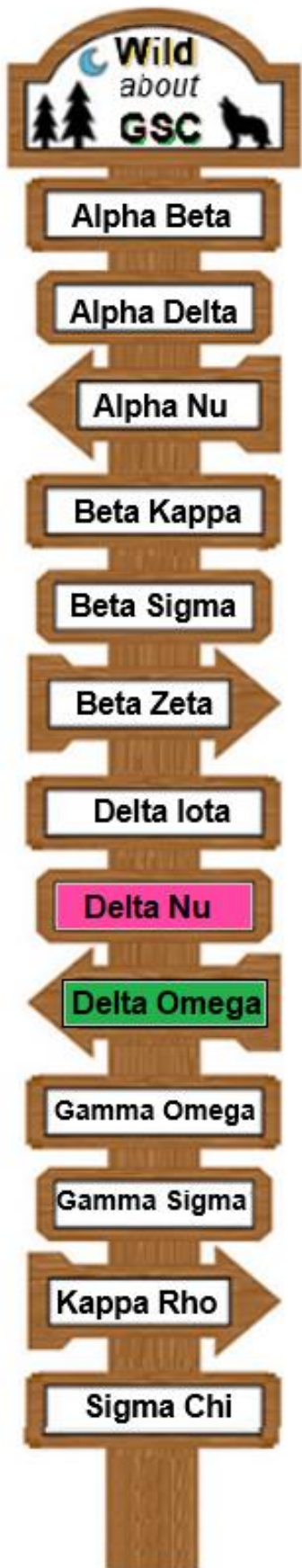
Jim and I have started our Santa Season and most of what we do is philanthropic. Some of the places we visit are Special Olympics, Boys & Girls Club, Yaarab Shriners Children’s Christmas Party, Elks Aidmore Children’s Home, and Whitfield County Fire Department Santa in Uniform just to name a few. Very few of our appearances are paid and those just cover our expenses. We love what we do and it is not for the money.

Mary and I plan to attend Mid-Year in Aiken in February and our Chapter, along with Sigma Chi and Alpha Nu, are hosting the 2024 State Convention at Unicoi State Park. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

DELTA OMEGA (AIKEN)

SHARON SMOOT – CHAPTER PRESIDENT

This Delta Omega Holiday Memory started out sad but turned out to be much needed fun! Just a few days after our Georgia Sister Luanne Langmo lost her husband in the Fall of 2019, her daughter, Leah, was there visiting her Mother in Aiken. Both Leah and I had lost our own husbands just a few years prior. While



we were all together, Leah took me aside and said, "we need to take Mom on a cruise to somewhere warm and relaxing during the holidays." How could Luanne say no knowing how strongly Leah and I enjoyed cruising.



2 for 1 Cocktail hour with "Miami Vice"
Leah and Sharon had Lemon Martini's
See them on either side of Luanne

We ended up cruising to Aruba and had a "no-brainer" week to spirit away some overwhelming sadness and filled it with fun. We lounged in the sun by the pool, hit the two for one Happy Hour each night, watched the on-board entertainment, laughed and enjoyed the beautiful blue Caribbean water.



Gingerbread houses everywhere

Postcards from IC...

SUSAN GARNER – GSC PRESIDENT



The Olive Oil and Balsamic Vinegar Tasting event was held on October 19th. It was very informative and several members across the United States participated. Below, please see my daughter, Heather and I pretending to be in Italy (LOL)!



Susan and her daughter, Heather.



Just a reminder that future IC Convention sites are as follows:

- 2024 will be hosted by Kansas. It will be July 7-14, 2024 at the Doubletree by Hilton, Overland Park, Kansas. Room rates are \$154 (S/D), \$164 (Triple), and \$174 (Quad). Parking will be \$8.00 per day. If arriving early or staying late in Overland Park, please refer to the IC Newsletters for numerous places you will want to add to your itinerary.
- 2025 will be hosted by SERC. It will be July 13-20, 2025 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, Cary, North Carolina. Room rates are as follows + tax: \$175 (S/D), \$185 (Triple), and \$195 (Quad). Parking is free.
- 2026 will be hosted by Virginia. It will be in Richmond, Virginia at the Omni Hotel. More information to be shared at a later time.



Susan Garner
GSC President 2023-2024
ESA . . . Adventure Awaits

Postcards from GSC...

GSC EXECUTIVE BOARD



Wishing you the warmth of home, the love of family, and all the deepest joys of Christmas.

Cheers to another year of cherished memories and our enduring friendship.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Postcards from SERC...

LINDA LONG – SERC COORDINATOR



Wow.. what a wonderful SERC Conference Georgia hosted in October!
Great Job!



Our attendance may have been low but fortunately we had representation from all eleven Southeastern Regional Council states. Our “Georgia’s Hidden Treasures” conference was full of uncovering many of our states’ s favorite sites and entertained us with a variety of visual aids, beautiful decorations, fun skits and other memorable events.

I want to thank SERC Past President Theda Hall and her board on their achievements as their” See It, Believe It, Achieve It” year has concluded. Our newly elected SERC President Laura Gnewuch truly made an impression with her “Reach with Your Heart” heartwarming speech. Congratulations to her and her new board and wish them much success going forward.

I want to personally extend an enormous expression of gratitude to all my Georgia Sisters who helped put on this conference. The list is too long to mention them individually as it would cover most of our state’s membership. Your dedication, cooperation, participation and loving support is noted and valued. It truly takes a village to put on this type of event, and you flourished and displayed our Southern Hospitality well. However, our two 2023 SERC Conference Co-Chairmen Romanda Talley and Susan Knudson deserve a huge special recognition for all their hard work and leadership. Their talents shined. I am honored and proud to have been part of this wonderful event.

I look forward to our next 2024 SERC conference in Little Rock, Arkansas to experience a new adventure to “Shine Bright Like a Diamond”.

Linda Long

SERC Coordinator

Just a Few More Things...



Wreaths Across America

Sat, December 16, 2023

Just a friendly reminder...

Wreaths Across America will be laying the wreaths on gravesites of our vets at the Marietta National Cemetery and other National Cemeteries across the state.



Joshua Stultz, the Wreaths Across America Location Coordinator for the Marietta National Cemetery, would like to personally invite you, your friends, and your family to join them for the wreath-laying ceremony on December 16, 2023, at 12 noon.

“ Your presence and participation in laying wreaths will not only be deeply appreciated but will also contribute to the solemnity and reverence of the event.”

“Thank you for your time and consideration. Let us come together as a community to honor and remember those who have served our nation. “

ESA Headquarters Reminders

Our friends at ESA Headquarters ask us not to forget to share all the holiday fun and good works we are doing this season with them through the Power of Us campaign and submit our events online in the categories of Education, Service, and/or Association.



The ESA Headquarters office will be closed from noon MST on December 22nd until 8am MST on January 2nd.

next GSC NEWSLETTER

Our next Newsletter will be heading your way in February 2024. Please join in and email your Newsletter entries by **Monday, February 5, 2024.**

Next Newsletter Theme:
Winter/Spring Memories & Adventures

Chapter Brag Time:
Gamma Omega & Gamma Sigma

** Your entries are greatly appreciated.

Send to:

stg2015@bellsouth.net; kimnew@bellsouth.net; venlew1@bellsouth.net



For unto us a child is born..!





ESA Adventure Awaits For you in Aiken, SC

ESA Georgia State Council Meeting

Host: Gamma Omega

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Newberry Hall - 117 Newberry St. SW- Aiken, SC 2980

Name _____ Chapter Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____


Registration (member or guest) \$38.00 Includes lunch & meeting room

Late registration (postmarked after January 31) \$42.00 Walk- in registration \$46.00

Please let us know if you have food allergy and we will try to accommodate _____

Need a name tag? Are you: First time Md- Year attendee? Pledge Guest

Will you be staying overnight If so, how many nights

Make check to  Gamma Omega Meeting registration deadline: January 31, 2024
 Send to: Sheryl Gootee 3504 Prosperity Hwy Prosperity, SC 29127-9561
 If you have any questions, you may call Sheryl at 803-944-7640

Each attendee is requested to bring grooming items for abused women at Cimbee Center

Hotel Information

Come a day early and spend time in Historic Downtown Aiken

100 Carriage House Inn 803- 644- 5888

Downtown Aiken on Laurens St.

Eight Double rooms and six suites have been blocked with 9 more suites being block at later date (some suites can sleep three to a room.) Must make your reservations by Monday, December 18th or they will no longer be available. The doubles will go fast.

Other option is to make your reservation at Hundslake 844- 209- 0598

Please book early so I can get 10 more rooms blocked



**GEORGIA STATE COUNCIL
SEVENTY FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
"Exploring in the Mountains"**
FRIDAY May 17, 2024 - Sunday, May 19, 2024 Unicoi
State Park & Lodge
1788 Highway 356, Helen, GA 30545

Name: _____ Chapter: _____ Chapter # _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Registration Fees: Members (Includes all meal functions)	\$150.00	_____
Guest (Includes Mixer Party/Dinner and Banquet)	\$80.00	_____
Guest Names: _____		
Late Registration Fee (Postmarked after April 16, 2024)	\$25.00	_____
Walk-In Registration Fee at Convention	\$35.00	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED:		_____

Please Check: Pledge (new member) First Time Attendee

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Hosted by: Sigma Chi, Delta Nu, and Alpha Nu
 Make Check Payable to: EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA 1943 ALPHA NU
 Mail to: Gennie Gilvin, Convention Treasurer: 126 E Montego CT, NW; Milledgeville, GA 31061
 Convention Registration Deadline: **April 16, 2024.**

Cancellations must be received in writing to Convention Treasurer by April 25, 2024 for a refund.

Unicoi State Park & Lodge

Hotel Reservation Deadline: April 16, 2024 ("Cut-off Date"). PHONE: 1-800-573-9659

Group: Georgia State Council of ESA Group Code: 10296

Group room rate is \$159.00 per night plus tax (15%) and \$12 Lodge Service Fee.
 Individuals can guarantee reservations with a credit card. There is free parking.

****Rates are good 2 days prior and 2 days after convention. If you plan to arrive prior to May 16, 2024 or stay after May 19, 2024 you must call for reservations (1-800-573-9659) as their website will not give you the rate outside of actual convention dates.***

Go to website: www.unicoilodge.com

- Upper right-hand corner Click on Blue box: Lowest Rate Guaranteed BOOK HERE!
- Select Arrival/Departure Dates and number of guests per room
- Click CHECK AVAILABILITY – then Click on RATE OPTIONS
- Click in box "Promotional/Group Code" and Enter Promotional Code: **10296**
- Click CHECK AVAILABILITY again, then Select Room Type
- Select BOOK IT and Complete required information to make reservation



Georgia State Council 2024 Convention Advertising Order Form for Program Book

Name:

Telephone: Email:

Address:

City/State: Zip:

Requested Ad Size:	Full Page	\$50.	<input type="text"/>
	Half Page	\$25.	<input type="text"/>
	Quarter Page/ Business Card	\$15.	<input type="text"/>

(Add \$10.00 to full or \$5 to half page ad if using a colored background)

Layout Assistance Needed: Yes No

Advertisements Accepted through April 16, 2024

Make Check Payable to: EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA 1943 ALPHA NU

Mail form, ad copy, and check to:

**Gennie Gilvin, Convention Treasurer
126 E Montego CT, NW;
Milledgeville, GA 31061**

Email digital copy of Ad to: ggilvin@aol.com