

EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA

JAW-JA JONQUIL

Georgia State Council
October 2026 / Volume 38 – Issue 3

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OCTOBER 23-24, 2026
SERC Convention – Kissimmee, FL
Registration deadline: 10-15-26

JANAURY 31, 2027
GSC dues – remaining half deadline

FEBRUARY 20, 2027
GSC Mid-Year Meeting – Forsyth, GA

APRIL 15, 2027
GSC Awards Forms Due

APRIL 23, 2027
GSC Convention registration deadline

MAY 13-16, 2027
GSC Convention – Savannah, GA
(Beta Zeta, Gamma Sigma & Kappa Rho)

Click on linked forms:

*Mid-Year Meeting Registration
*2027 GSC Convention Registration
*ESA Family Scholarship Donation



NEWSLETTER

What's Up" articles needed from:
Delta Nu & Gamma Sigma
Kappa Rho & Beta Kappa
Gamma Omega & Alpha Beta
Alpha Delta & Sigma Chi
Delta Omega, Beta Sigma & Delta Iota
Alpha Nu & Beta Zeta

Article Deadlines
June 5, 2026
August 7, 2026
October 9, 2026
December 4, 2026
February 5, 2027
April 5, 2027

Deadlines also for all Executive & Appointed Board members

NEWSLETTER

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD MEMBERS:

Sharon Smoot - President - "Encourage - Support - Appreciate"



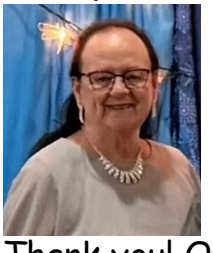
Hopefully, you had a worthwhile time at Fall Leadership and even learned how good starting with a short stretch makes you feel good.

We learned, collaborated and had fun with many workshops planned with you, our Members and our Georgia State Council, in mind. These workshop sessions helped with:

* Preferences to narrow down communication methods that actually are used by and benefit Georgia members
* Focus help on serious GSC Convention hosting issues in finding a location venue. It can be voted on and become official for Convention to be hosted by the Gavelettes, whose members represent almost all chapters.
* Narrowing down just what is needed when passing all your Appointed Board information and history binders/folders to help the next person taking on that job, AND, for those on the Executive Board, they only need the past 3 years of binders and only with information relating to that position. (Not every email sent/received or paperwork of non-position related information.)
* Finding Your Season – making it easier to find a complimentary set of colors for your best self and definitely makes you feel better.
* Becoming "Bag Ladies" to benefit foster children with our many-many totes, duffel bags & suitcases we so generously brought in and were able to pass on for foster children coming and going to have their own bag – not just a plastic bag
* Decorating pumpkins. Who knew we were so creative. Very well done, BTW.

Next step for me is heading to Florida for the SERC Conference in October and getting the agenda ready for our February Mid-Year meeting.

Sheryl Gootee, Second Vice President



I had a wonderful time in Dalton, GA at the Fall Board/Leadership conference hosted by Delta Nu and Sigma Chi

One of my duties as GSC 2nd VP, is to chair the 2028 Convention location, etc. I am excited to say that the Gavelette's, have stated they would be the Hostess with the "Mostess" for our conventions. Thank you! Of course, I will help any way I can if it gets approved when voted.

Now I am getting ready for our Mid-Year meeting in Forsyth, GA hosted by Alpha Nu. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

A favorite quote: "Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale" - Lauren DeStefano.

Luanne Langmo, Corresponding Secretary, with ESA Foundation news



Great new ESA Foundation Scholarship and... Georgia leads the way

A Georgia State Council member and with GSC support, has now initiated a new scholarship – The *"ESA Family Scholarship"*. Applicants from any state can apply if they have a relative that is an ESA member in good standing regardless of the state where the member resides. Many scholarships are limited by the scholarships themselves by the relative applicant having to live in the state where the member resides. *Note: more details of who is an eligible relative for this new scholarship is noted on the application form.

Now – it needs funding to get to the dollar point the scholarship can be given out. Since all state applicants are eligible, all states can donate. Donations can be made through Zeffy (via the Zeffy link) or by sending a check by mail with a completed contribution form. When filling out the form – at the top add "**to be applied to the *ESA Family Scholarship"***. Mail it to the ESAMC address noted on the form in Fort Collins. The ESAF scholarship staff will handle the rest.

An article is also being submitted to the IC newsletter for alerting all ESA members. Hope this will get lots of donations to get this all-state scholarship funded. Such a great idea – to give all our ESA members and their relatives a bigger leg up for a scholarship without limitations of living in the member's state.
(To find the scholarship donation form: Log onto the Georgia State Council website, www.esageorgia.com. Go to the bottom of the GSC home page, click on the ESA Foundation link, then click on "Member Center". In the green banner click on "*Donate to the ESA Foundation".)*



Ruth Ann Edge, Disaster Fund Chair



Fall is the time to slow down and reflect on the fast paced, heat filled days of Summer. I remember when Summer was referred to as the lazy days. What happened to that quiet slow-packed life

Fall and spring are my favorite seasons. In fall we witness the old leaves turning beautiful colors and then fall to the ground and become the mulch that replenishes the earth. Isn't nature wonderful? I hope you enjoy the gentle breezes, beautiful autumn colors, crisp air, pumpkin pie, the smell, and taste of pumpkin spice, and peaceful days before the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.



It is also time to think about our fellow ESA sisters and brothers who have experienced hardship caused by a disaster. They need our help. Please give generously to the Disaster Fund. I know there is a large amount of money in the fund, but the fund can be wiped away in seconds when a disaster strikes. The maximum you can receive from the fund is $8,000. At the Fall Board Meeting I announced a goal of $1,000 for the Georgia's contribution this year. That is only 1.25% of one distribution. ESAMC records list only forty-eight active members in the Georgia State Council. $1,000 is approximately $21 a member. I know we can do that. If you can give more that would be wonderful. Give from your heart because you never know when you will be the one who suffers that devastating moment when you need help.

Susie Knudson, Parliamentarian



Hello again to all my Georgia family. I love the change of season. I am not quite ready for boots and sweaters, but the cool weather is wonderful. I was very happy to see all those that attended our Leadership/Fall Board Meeting. We had great discussions, made some very important decisions for our future and we had a great time doing it! One of the accomplishments was the passage of two changes to our Standing Rules. These changes have now been posted to our web site. So, if you need an updated version of the Standing Rules, you can now download them.

There were two other discussions at that weekend meeting that could change some Bylaws and Standing Rules. One was the Gavelettes voted to become the GSC Convention hostess in perpetuity. Your Bylaws Committee will be reviewing over the next several months what proposed changes need to occur to see what happens. The other discussion was a copy of the ESA International Amendment to their Articles of Incorporation, distributed to each chapter president/representative in attendance. A mailed copy was sent to the chapter President of any chapter with no one in attendance. This Amendment, think of it as a Will, details what would happen with the financial assets of ESA International is dissolved. As a state council, Georgia is vey blessed with existing funds. No one wants to see ESA go away, but we also do not want to be caught off guard as we did when Covid hit. All chapters please review the Amendment and let the Bylaws committee know your thoughts before we vote. If Georgia is not ready to pursue adding dissolution language to our Bylaws, that is also ok. Just let us know, please.

This is another reminder that if you see a Bylaw or Standing Rule change that is needed, you can submit it to the Bylaws Committee any time. However, please remember Standing Rule changes need to be submitted to the Committee 60 days prior to a Council meeting and Bylaw changes submitted 90 days prior to our State Convention. This gives time for review by all Bylaws Committee members.

Romanda Talley, St. Jude Coordinator

We are now in our seventh month of Georgia ESA. That makes our Georgia ESA year only five more months for 2026-27. So what has your chapter done for St. Jude Hospital? As of this date, our report from ESAMC shows only three chapters contributing so far this year. I know other chapters have money for St. Jude, so please don't wait to send it in all at one time. The children at St. Jude need your help every day.

At Fall Council, I challenged all members to take four hours of their busy pre-December activities to unwind. Have yourself a cup of hot chocolate, glass of wine, etc. While unwinding, call a few family/friends/coworkers/church friends/etc. Ask them to donate to the children at St.Jude that won't be able to enjoy the December holidays the way other children have the opportunity to do.

(article continues next page ->)

(con't St.Jude)

December is "giving month". Let's give to St.Jude in the same way we give gifts each year. The chapters with monies from this event that equals $300.00 or more will have a special surprise that will be announced at our Mid-Year meeting.

Enjoy this special time of year when leaves are bright, the mornings are cooler, mother nature is ready to take a rest and thank God or your higher being so the children at St.Jude can spend some time outside to experience this wonderful changing of the seasons that happens in our beautiful world.





Pat Griffin – Hope For Heros

Hello my friends,

What do you think when you hear the words "Hope for Heroes". Do you automatically think about military – our men and women out there fighting to keep this country safe? I also think about our military and I'm happy to see the various projects, monies and hours that were turned in last year.

Upcoming opportunities to get involved are Veterans Day coming up in November – look into volunteering at a Veterans Day event in your community. Offer to purchase water, flags or flag pins to pass around at the event. Naturally, you would want to put your chapter name and ESA on anything you hand out. Or, if you have a Veterans Home close by, you could purchase packs of crackers and put a label on them with "Thank You for your Service". To make it pop, you could add an American Flag sticker or just print one on your label. This is a small gesture but one that could make a huge impact on any person receiving those crackers.

Another way is with Wreaths Across America. Wreaths Across America Day is December 19th this year. Your chapter or you could volunteer to help place wreaths on veteran's graves at a military cemetery. It's a time to Remember, Honor and Teach. Remember the fallen. Honor those who served. Teach the next generation the value of freedom. Sponsor a veteran's wreath in honor of, or in memory of a loved one who served in our armed forces. Or, purchase a wreath for $17 and allow them to designate a recipient among millions of heroes who rest in honored glory. One other thing, if you want to support a certain cemetery, you can designate it on your order form.

We often think of "our service members" as though they are one united group. Yet within that group are countless individuals, each with a name, a family, and a story that helped shape the freedoms we cherish today. While we honor them collectively, we can sometimes overlook the deeply personal sacrifices: the parent who never met a grandchild, the young recruit asked to shoulder more than any teenager should, and the veteran who returned home carrying memories too heavy to share. Wreaths Across America stives to ensure that no one is forgotten. The possibilities are endless and now is the time to get started looking at ways you and your chapter can be heroes. Happy Fall

Sherrie Bordeaux, Philanthropic Chair

Happy October and hope all of you are enjoying the somewhat cooler weather. Just a reminder to keep up with hours and monies for your philanthropic endeavors. The deadline will be April 15, as always. At Fall Board I presented the new forms from IC; however, I do believe that all chapters decided to continue using the Georgia State Philanthropic Forms and sending your information to the Philanthropic Chair at year end. If your chapter has decided on something different, please let me know.
Happy Fall and Thanksgiving to you!!! And see you at Mid-Year in Forsyth.

Romanda Talley – 2027 GSC Convention Co-Chair / May 14-16, 2027

OUR GSC CONVENTION IS COMING SOON… ARE YOU READY?
CAN YOU ACT LIKE A PENGUIN? WILL YOU DRESS LIKE A PENGUIN?
…OR EAT LIKE A PENGUIN?
MAYBE WALK LIKE A PENGUIN?
COME TO CONVENTION
AND
FIND THE ANSWERS!!!



CHAPTER NEWS AROUND THE STATE FOR YOU

ALPHA BETA CHAPTER #5544 – Venetia Lewallen, Chapter President

Hey friends! Starting to feel like Fall, isn't it ? Alpha Beta did not meet during the summer and had a great time when we got back together in August. Our projects this year includes 2 of our favorite charitable organizations, Fur-Baby Rescue (support of our local animal shelters) and our Villa Rica High School Pantry (donated food, toiletries, coats, etc.).

Our Chapter theme this year is 'Stargazing with Alpha Beta' and our Educational theme is 'To Infinity & Beyond'. So far, we've learned the magic of the Harvest Moon and of the Autumnal Equinox. Did anyone try to balance an egg on its end..? We saw the Perseid meteor showers in August and also enjoy the challenge to find the Pleiades (the Seven Sisters), since we are also seven sisters.

We are very proud of our members who are serving on some of the GSC and SERC Boards this year… and be sure to support Susan Garner for SERC Recording Secretary for the upcoming year.

Our Chapter's St Jude Walk will be later in October. So far, we have raised $600 for St Jude. Feel free to make a donation from the St Jude Atlanta Walk web page, for our team. Please let me know if you have a hard time finding us on the site. We are also planning a St. Jude Fundraiser for after the new year. You will all be invited, so keep watching for more information and registration details.
** On a personal note – Kim and Venetia would like to thank our amazing ESA Georgia friends who sent us cards, emails, messages, etc. Be assured that your kindness brought some comfort when we really needed some. We hope everyone has a fun Fall – and a wonderful Thanksgiving.

GAMMA OMEGA CHAPTER #5464 - Sheryl Gootee, Chapter President

Gamma Omega girls; Sheryl, Theresa and Gin had a great time in Dalton for the Fall Board/Leadership conference. Thank you host Chapters Delta Nu and Sigma Chi.

Gamma Omega is working on our fundraisers this year. We have our annual Paper Shredding event coming up on October 12th from 10-1pm to support St-Jude Children's Hospital. We also went on a field trip to Great Oak Equine Assisted Program. Looking at possibly supporting an additional program. This is a 501c3 nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible. Great Oak provides equine assisted activities that promote the physical, emotional, and psychological health of individuals with disabilities. Their programs are the catalyst for unbridled personal growth and awareness. They share their knowledge to empower individuals and their families. They are starting a new program for veterans as well.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Forsyth for our Mid-Year meeting. "The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves. We have had our summer evenings; now for October eves" - Humbert Wolf

One of our members taking a "ride" on our trip to Great Oak Equine. Doesn't she look great?





Anyone want to catch a ride on my new wheels? I'm ready! - Sheryl Gootee - biker





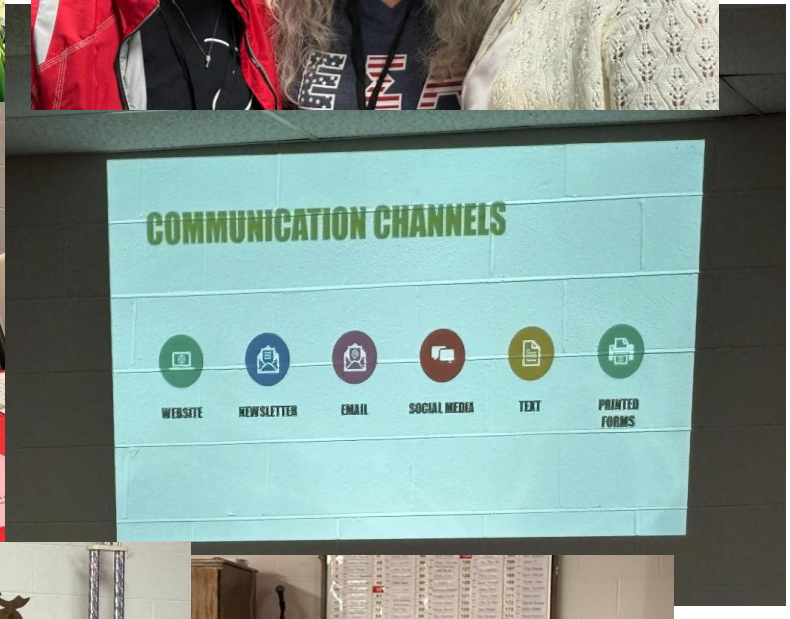


September 12, 2026
Leadership Workshops















Click on linked forms:

[Mid-Year Meeting Registration]

[2027 GSC Convention Registration]

[2027 GSC Convention Book AD Form]

[ESA Family Scholarship Donation]