



Amanda Dixon, President-Ohio State Council

Welcome to 2024! With the new year comes new opportunities to make an impact. Let’s use this time to really think about what kind of things we want to accomplish this year and how to make them happen.

Membership is and will always be a huge part of ESA. It’s redundant at this point to say “we need more members”. I know you all know that. I hope to see Beth Laage & Becky Karlak, your membership directors, come up with something great for us this new year.

Now is the time to start planning your events as well. Spring will be here before you know it. Host a paint and sip party, T-shirt making party, or even a bingo like Sigma Chi did.

Headquarters is back open for the year, and I am sure they are working tirelessly to plan a great Leadership conference for us. I encourage all of you to attend at least once. To say it has been life changing for me would be an understatement. Tammy Reynolds, VP of Ohio and I will be traveling to Denver, with Brenda Meyers, IC President, in February. Registration is open on the ESA website. Please let me know if you can attend. I’d love to see more Ohio members attending more national and regional events. Don’t forget to submit your Power of Us events as well.

As many of you know, I, Amanda Dixon, am running for President of MARC 2024-2025. I will be traveling to St. Louis the weekend of March 16th for the mid-year meeting with fellow board members. This year the MARC Conference will take place on October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel in St. Louis, MO. I would really like to see all my Ohio brothers and sisters show up for me. As Brenda Meyers needed help when she was installed as IC President last year, I too will need the help of my state. It is drivable as well. I’m sure Shirley & Denise will have more details for you as the year comes. Lastly, Jill Shull, President of MARC, has decided to highlight state’s monthly in the facebook group for MARC. Ohio will be in September. Please make sure you are taking pictures and reporting back to Becca & I for the highlights to be put on the website and Facebook.

The Spring Leadership meeting for Ohio will be March 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. Thank you to Sigma Chi for hosting. The registration form is ready. Please make sure you fill it out and get it in as soon as possible. I know they will put on a great meeting. Make sure you bring things for pets for the special project.

January 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for By-laws and standing rule changes to be submitted to Brenda Meyers as well as February 1<sup>st</sup> your chapters choices for Philanthropic projects for 2024-2025. Be thinking to the future and how you can support Tammy Reynolds on her board as well.

Thank you all for all your continued hard work in ESA. You all amaze me.

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## JUNIOR PAST PRESIDENT . . . JOAN FARABEE

Hello Friends!

Hopefully your New Year is off to a roaring start! I hope 2024 brings you all much happiness and joy. And above all, good health!

Please remember when your chapter is deciding about contributing to the Disaster Fund, it needs to come to me, and I then send it to our Disaster Fund representative in IC.

We have all heard heart warming stories of how our ESA members have been helped through out the years. I encourage each chapter to consider giving generously to this fund.

My address is 860 Windsor Green Drive,  
Villa Hills, Kentucky 41017. I look forward to sharing your generous support.

Good luck Amanda, Tammy and Brenda at Leadership this year! It truly is an amazing experience. I know you will love being led by Charlotte. I am sad she is leaving, but I am certain her replacement will be as spunky, creative, knowledgeable and loving as both she and BJ.

We can all look forward to our year with our Brenda as IC President as well as a new leader for headquarters! Break them in well Brenda!

Take care dear friends, and I look forward to hearing about all the new ideas from Leadership as well as your support for the Disaster Fund.

Fondly,  
Joan



# FOUNDATION ...MARY LYKINS

**Happy New Everyone!** Hope your holidays were filled with love laughter, family, and friends. Please note the information below. There are many ways to give.

## **ESAF Pathway Program:**

Looking to recognize someone in a unique way? Having trouble finding a gift for someone who has “everything”? The Pathway Program is a new program created to celebrate special ESA Foundation or ESA members, community volunteers, or other special people in our lives. Through the program, individuals can purchase virtual bricks in various contribution levels. The recognitions increase with the contribution amount as described on the website and program flyer: [Pathway - Epsilon Sigma Alpha \(ESA\) - An International Service Organization](#).

Donations to the Pathway Program can be made at the website above and will pave the way to a brighter future for our organization, those who follow in our path, and all we serve.

Flyers are available from the webpage or contact Jennifer Sparkman, [jmsparkman7@gmail.com](mailto:jmsparkman7@gmail.com), who can mail hard copies of the flyer to you.

## **Turnaround Funds:**

We often have chapters who send their donations through the turnaround funds and we would like to remind everyone that individuals can also use the turnaround funds. This helps strengthen our 501c3 position and can simplify things for the individual too. Contribution forms for the turnaround funds are available on the website: [contribute - Epsilon Sigma Alpha \(ESA\) - An International Service Organization](#). The concept of the turnaround funds can initially be confusing. Please contact me if you would like more information on using or how to explain to others about the turnaround fund program.

## **Planned Giving:**

The Planned Giving program is the Foundation’s program for individuals to bequest funds to the Foundation upon their passing. Planned Givers are committed to ensuring the long-term success of the Foundation through their donation. Donations can be defined in a Will or through alternate ways, such as naming the Foundation as a beneficiary in an insurance policy. This summer the Board updated the Planned Giving literature. The updated materials as well as details on the Planned Giving program are available at the bottom of the Foundation contribution page: [contribute - Epsilon Sigma Alpha \(ESA\) - An International Service Organization](#). Questions can be directed to the Planned Giving Chairman, Terrie Rust, or any member of the Board.

## **Create a New Endowment**

The endowment is fully endowed when the balance in the account reaches \$5,000. All accounts will be maintained with a Restricted Account Principal of \$5,000 and all additional monies will be placed in the available account balance. See attached form. [Please NOTE: Form has 3 pages.]

## **Scholarship Info:**

The ESAF scholarship season is well underway, with the deadline to complete applications being February 1<sup>st</sup>. The scholarship information is located on the Ohio ESA website as well as the Ohio State Council Facebook Page.

**“You’ve got to get up every morning with determination if you’re going to go to bed with satisfaction.” – George Lorimer**

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## ESA FOUNDATION IRREVOCABLE ENDOWMENT AGREEMENT

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to donate funds to establish an endowment with the ESA Foundation. The ESA Foundation agrees to accept said funds and maintain them as an endowment, determine and distribute scholarships based on the established rolling spending rate set by the ESA Foundation Board of Directors [if that amount is present in the endowment's available balance] not to exceed 7% the of the total endowment funds, and the total fund balance. This endowment shall be used exclusively for the specific purpose of a scholarship.

This endowment shall be entirely subject to the rules, regulations, and bylaws of the ESA Foundation and the requirements of Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

In the event the income from this fund is insufficient, in the opinion of the ESA Foundation, to carry out its intended purpose, the ESA Foundation may expend such portions of the principal of the fund as it deems appropriate or combine the income with other funds held by them for that same purpose.

This **AGREEMENT** is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Between the ESA Foundation and \_\_\_\_\_.

[Individual / Chapter / Council or other Organization establishing endowment]

### TERMS OF AGREEMENT:

I. Amount forwarded to establish endowment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

[\$ 100 minimum]

This Endowment is to be known as:

\_\_\_\_\_

or

An Honorarium Endowment to be known as:

\_\_\_\_\_

or

A Memorial Endowment to be known as:

\_\_\_\_\_

### III. Special Criteria for the Endowment

[Example: Specific Major – i.e. nursing, teaching, engineering, etc.; limited to students in a certain state or to a specific university / college, etc. or GPA or **ANY MAJOR, ANY STATE, ANY SCHOOL, GPA 3.00 minimum on 4.00 scale**].

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Judging Criteria to be used for Scholarship judging: (Select one – 1)**

X	Criteria	Service / Leadership	Financial Need	Scholastic Ability
	A	20	35	35
	B	15	50	25
	C	15	25	50
	D	50	20	20
	E	30	30	30
	F	40	40	10

In the event that there are no qualified applicants for the scholarship associated with this endowment, I request that the scholarship committee:

\_\_\_\_\_ Select the winner from the following Endowment(s)' list of applications: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[name of endowment(s)]

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about considering altering the criteria for the scholarship to attract applicants

\_\_\_\_\_ Not award the scholarship, but allow endowment funds to build for the year

**V.** All accounts will be maintained with a Restricted Account Principal of \$5,000 and any additional money will be placed in the Available account balance.

**VI.** When the Endowment's Restricted Account Principal is \$5,000, an endowment is eligible to award a scholarship in a given amount based on 'giving criteria' if that amount is present in the endowment's **Available Balance** as of December 31 of any given year.

**VII. The Endowment is Irrevocable**

The ESA Foundation Board of Directors shall administer this endowment. Once the endowment is established, moneys are not refundable and in the event the terms of agreement cannot be met, the Board of Directors shall determine the appropriate action.

Signature of Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted for the ESA Foundation: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature Endowment Chairman] [Date]

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted for the ESA Foundation: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature Endowment Chairman] [Date]

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

VIII. The Contact Person

An official contact for each Endowment will be appointed. According to law, it is the ESA Foundation Board of Directors that has the legal responsibility to administer the Endowments. An Endowment Statement will be sent to the designated contact after the close of each financial year – December 31. The Endowment Statement contains information on the current fund balances, the return on investment, the spending rate based on the average of the three-year return on investment, the 7% Endowment cap calculation, and the number and amount of scholarships to be given.

The “Contact Person” for this Endowment will be:

\_\_\_\_\_ ESA Foundation Board of Directors **OR**

1<sup>st</sup> Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Happy New Year everyone!

Just a reminder that any proposed changes to the OSC By-Laws and/or Standing Rules are due by **January 31, 2024**. It is important to make any submissions on time as it takes time for the board to review and the proposals ready to be presented at the following council meeting.



Please review Appendix A on the Ohio Website <http://www.esa-ohio.org/resources.html> for any listed positions you have held recently. These position descriptions are maintained by the Executive Board and proposed changes are considered by the Executive Board. Approved changes will be updated by the Parliamentarian and presented to the incoming Appointed Board for their use.

Hope this finds you all well and prospering! I look forward to seeing you all in February.

Brenda



*Updating  
the Bylaws*

**Standing Rules**

# WAYS & MEANS...MARSHA REYNOLDS

## WAYS & MEANS.....Marsha Reynolds.....OHIO ESA

### NEW IDEA FOR FUNDRAISING FOR THE WAYS AND MEANS FOR OHIO STATE CONVENTION 2024

Dear wonderful ESA Members,

It has been decided that most chapters feel that we need a change from the basket raffles to create funds for our states ways and means projects.

This year we are going to do a ballon pop event. I need every member to be involved in this endeavor to be super successful.

Each ESA member is asked to give a gift card with at least the value of \$10.00 or more. Some examples would be: Walmart, Starbucks, Lottery Tickets, Kroger, CVS, Walgreens, Macys, Target's, McDonald's, Culver's, Sam's Club, Dollar Store, Kohl's, Apple Store, Lowe's, Hobby Lobby, any Restaurant, any movie theaters gift card, Great Clips, any hair salon, any gas station gift card, any place you shop, Also.....any gift card you received for the holidays just use your imagination. As your chapters collect these gift cards from you in the next several months, I will collect them from your Chapter President. By the way, there are going to be some very special gift cards in some balloons.

### NEWS ABOUT OUR STATE CONVENTION:

Theme: "ESA EMBRACES THE LOVE FOR OHIO "

MAY 3-4, 2024

HOPE HOTEL WPAFB , OHIO

The Hope Hotel has been refurbished since we have been there several years ago. We will have more information as we finalize the the contract.

Respectfully yours,

Marsha Reynolds

Ohio State Ways and Mean







Hello to all Ohio,

The holiday season filled our home with wonderful joy, shared by family and friends. I hope your holiday was the same.

I want to say a big THANKS to everyone who gave up their time to make things for the St. Jude Ohio fundraiser. It warms my heart to have the whole state behind our efforts this year. Please remember to watch for posts that are on the website and I send your chapter president information on it, at least a couple times a month. You can always contact me if you have questions. We have a couple of months left and we need to get our bids up so that we can continue to support the children at the Hospital. As always Beth and I appreciate your support

Remember when sending in your completed forms that the address has changed. 2580 East Harmony Rd. Suite 301-11, Fort Collins, Co. 80528. Sometimes it takes a while for them to get the information into their system. Thanks again for what you all do for the kids. It's wonderful and appreciated.

Short note on the Memphis Marathon raising over \$53,000. That is awesome work for all who participated. I know it's appreciated by all.

So watch first January, February March and Aprils auction items and get those bids in. There are really lovely items donated by your members.

Happiest New Year and Hoping 2024 is the best yet.  
Nancy and Beth St. Jude Reps



# Easter Seals...JANET IVERS



## Supporting local Veterans - Veterans Day 2023

A new facility opened in November: **Klekamp Military Veterans Center at Easterseals Redwood on Gilbert Avenue, Cinti.** Per **Sherry Ems, Director of Military & Veteran Services** this new state-of-the-art facility for Tri-state military veterans and families will provide one location for services, support, and other resources, including: legal assistance, mental health support, housing referrals, and military documentation referrals. The 7,000 sq. ft. space will include: fitness center, computer lab, gaming room, laundry and shower facilities, kitchen, lounge, huddle and conference rooms and multi-purpose room for community engagement events.

Military & Veteran Services also connect our military Vets to other resources: transitioning from the military with a local mentor to assist them with education, employment, VA, and more; and community organizations with programs to assist veterans with needs not addressed by their government benefits. We make veterans aware of the services available to them.

As we commemorate #VeteransDay, our Director of Military & Veteran Services Sherry Ems stopped by LOCAL 12, WKRC-TV this morning to chat with Bob Herzog about the work we do to help local veterans find employment, housing, medical care and more.



LOCAL12.COM Easterseals Redwood helps veterans get help

<https://www.eastersealsredwood.org/military-veteran-services/klekamp-family-military-and-veterans-center/>

## Gamma Kappa – Veterans Day 2023

Members of Gamma Kappa wrote 500 personal notes to give out at the **VA hospital** and the **military veteran programs at Easterseals Redwood.** They wrote a small article regarding this which was part of the 4:00 news on WLW. Per Kathy Solt, we are glad ESA realizes the importance of veteran programs.



## Easter Seals...JANET IVERS (Continued)

### Tour of Redwood facility Ft. Mitchell, KY Nov. 2023 - Janet Ivers

In August 2022 Easterseals Greater Cinti combined with the Redwood organization in Northern KY - new name **Easterseals Redwood**. I've been interested in knowing more about **Redwood** and the services they provide. So, I met up with **Austin Alley, Corp Relations Mgr** of **Easterseals Redwood** for a tour at the original **Redwood Rehab Center** in **Ft. Mitchell, KY**.

Redwood's story begins in 1951 when the Reder family's son had cerebral palsy, and they discovered there were no services in N. Ky to help him. They teamed up with the Wood family whose daughter also had cerebral palsy. **These parents founded Redwood Rehab Center** – to provide services, solutions and hope for all children with disabilities. In 1954 they became a member of United Way.

The building size is deceiving when viewed from the front. There are wings extending behind plus another floor, providing enough space for Redwood's broad range of services for all ages: children's services (starting at newborn) and through adulthood.

First stop on the tour was the **Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC)** program led by **Betsy Eiserman** (see pics). ATRC has a broad range of assistive technology equipment for individual client needs. It's available for loan and demonstration for any age and/or disability, their families, employers, employment service provider, educator, health care and social service providers. They also can loan temporary portable ramps for clients with disabilities or short-term medical needs. Kentucky residents with hearing loss or speech impairment can evaluate a variety of amplified phones, signaling and hands-free phones under the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP). <https://www.fox19.com/2023/03/28/easterseals-redwood-helping-people-with-disabilities-with-daily-life-tasks/>

We then toured the **Prescription Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) medical day care program** where children are referred from Childrens Hospital. Children with complex medical needs receive specialized health care by onsite nursing staff in an inclusive classroom environment. Redwood's licensed PPEC program is fully funded by KY Medicaid. Children with complex medical needs receive specialized health care by onsite nursing staff in an inclusive classroom environment. Children enrolled in Early Care and Education will also benefit from: therapeutic intervention, nursing care, nutrition, and behavioral support. Redwood PPEC has a 5 star rating; only 11 states in the US have PPEC programs.

Lastly, we visited the vocational trade area for adults. Individuals were using pcs in the computer room and other tools are provided for adult vocations.

Next to the building outdoors, Astin showed me an area where they've built table-top gardening pots for clients to use and learn about gardening this Spring-Fall and a nearby Gazebo picnic table area. That would be a fun opportunity if anyone would like to assist in gardening. I learned about other companies/ organizations who donate their time: the festive Christmas decorations and Christmas tree in the building- P&G employees donated their time and the decorations; some organizations come in and help children decorate Christmas cookies. Contact person for volunteer questions at Ft. Mitchell facility is **Rachel Spicer at (859) 331-0880**.

## Easter Seals...JANET IVERS (Continued)

In November 2023, Redwood opened a new location in Florence, KY – offering Children's Services and Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (Medical Childcare).

<https://nkytribune.com/2022/07/redwood-rehabilitation-center-easterseals-sign-letter-of-intent-to-combine-the-two-organizations/>

<https://nkytribune.com/2023/08/easterseals-redwood-expands-child-disability-and-therapy-services-with-new-florence-location/>

### Easterseals Redwood

2901 Gilbert Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45206  
Phone: (513)281-2316

### Easterseals Redwood

71 Orphanage Rd,  
Fort Mitchell, KY 41017  
Phone: [\(859\) 331-0880](tel:8593310880)



Betsy Eiserman, ATRC and Austin Alley  
Easterseals Redwood Ft. Mitchell



Easterseals Redwood  
Ft. Mitchell, ATRC program

*Submitted by Janet Ivers*

## MARC...SHIRLEY KRCMAR and DENISE GUMBITA



Congratulations Amanda Dixon!

Our newly elected Vice President of the Midwest Area Regional Council!! Ohio State Council is proud of Mandy, and will support her as she becomes president at the MARC Conference in St. Louis, Missouri in October, 2024.

The other MARC officers are: Jill Shull, President; Bonnie Templeton, Past President; Beth Pompa, Secretary; Alley Gary, Treasurer; Julie Whitaker, Parliamentarian and Heather Hoey, Communicator.

The MARC Conference in Peoria, Illinois was attended by Brenda Meyers, Carol Hazelett, Kathi Silvey, Shirley Krcmar, Denise Gumbita and her granddaughter, Lydia Grace along with Mandy and her mom, Cathy Rowland. The German American Central Society shared information about their history and culture. Polka lessons were enjoyed by everyone. We heard speakers from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Affiliate located right in Peoria. It's never easy to listen to a story like Tonya's and hear that she lost her daughter to cancer. The Gold Star Family organization gives support and joy to the families of deceased veterans.

The auction of items donated by each state to supplement the MARC treasury was successful. Voting on bylaws was tabled as there were questions that needed to be answered.

Celebrating the successes of ESA, sharing ideas and projects, renewing friendships with sisters from other states and just having fun are some of the reasons for attending out of state meetings.

As soon as the registration form is published, be sure to mark the date for the MARC Conference on your calendar!

### Happy New Year Ohio sisters and brothers

As I'm sure you all know, our dear Celia Cordero passed away this past September. She passed very peacefully at her home with her daughter by her side. What an amazing woman she was! We consider her the matriarch of Delta Chi, having been in our chapter for well over 30 years. She had such a wonderful spirit and embraced life with such enthusiasm. She was an example to all of us, up till the day she died, at 101 years old.

Delta Chi has been busy with various fundraisers, educationals, volunteering, and just enjoying each other's company.

Marge Austing came up with an awesome fundraiser with "Everything Bundt Cakes". We all sold mini cakes and were given a portion of the proceeds. We made quite a bit of money for our treasury, and will definitely do it again in the Spring, around Easter time. It worked out really well for me, as we had 5 family birthdays to celebrate in November! So, everyone got their own individual birthday cake... flavor of their choice. I bought a few extra cakes, just to have in the freezer in case people stop by over the holidays. If you have a "Nothing Bundt Cake" shop near you, check them out for your next fundraiser.

We also did another Mike's carwash fundraiser, organized by Marsha Reynolds. This was a repeat of the one we did last year around Christmas, which was very successful, (which is why we decided to do it again!) What a great gift idea to give your hairdresser, mailman, leave with a

tip at a restaurant, or to put in stockings. The money we raised for the car wash was donated to several of our State philanthropic projects.

For an educational, in December, Marge and Mary arranged for a tour of Rumpke Recycling Center in St Bernard. It was attended by several of our Delta Chi members, who really enjoyed it, learned a lot, and had fun going to lunch with everyone after.

Carol, our membership chair, organized an eventing with wine and cheese, and invited several younger women: some of our daughters, and nieces, and friends, to attend to see what ideas they might offer as to how to draw younger women into ESA. We so appreciated their advice and suggestions! Everyone had a great time, and it was so nice to get these young ladies together. Maybe in the future, they all will start their own chapter.

Some of our volunteer projects are working at Matthew 25 on the last Tuesday of the month, along with several other chapters. We collected socks, gloves, hats, sweatpants, and other items for some of the men in Kathi's recovery group. We have also been collecting lunch box items for "Go Pantry", which is an organization that provides lunches for children who are in need. We are still busy making quilts for Butler County Foster Kids, and helping out at Find A Way, which is an apartment building in Oakley for adults

with disabilities. We helped serve Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas Dinner to about 40 residents, as well as helped out with some craft activities and some game nights.

We are also still collecting paperback books for our veterans.

Our book club is still going strong. We've been meeting every other month, at various places. Several months ago, we had our meeting at Goshen Grind, a coffee shop owned by the daughter and son-in-law of one of our newer members, Connie Whanger. What a cute little shop! We had a wonderful time! If you are ever in the Goshen area, please stop by and get a cup of brew! Make sure you say hello to Julie and Terri!!!

In spite of being busy with fundraisers and volunteering, we had plenty of time to have some fun. In the beginning of December, some of our chapter members were able to go to Waynesville for the Christmas Ladies Night Out. After Christmas, some made a trip to The Painted Tree gift shop.

And of course, our Delta Chi Christmas party, which was supposed to be at Becky's house, was relocated to Nancy's house! Becky ended up having some heart issues.....pretty serious and was in the hospital for our party. We are all relieved to say that she is doing fine, after receiving a pace maker. She is now home and back to her amazing self.

## CHAPTER CHATTER . . . DELTA CHI (CONT.)

We would like to ask for prayers for several of our members who have health issues/or had accidents. As we get older, we definitely become more susceptible to falling, as well as other health issues. I think all of us could use a round of prayers and good wishes.

Stay safe and healthy my friends.....Wishing you a 2024 filled with many of God's blessing.

Love, hugs, and God Bless you all!

Beth



## CHAPTER CHATTER...DELTA GAMMA

We were able to participate in the St. Jude Walk/Run in Cleveland this year. Denise Gumbita and I picked up the donated water and apples on Friday and headed to Cleveland bright and early on Saturday morning, September 23. Andy (my son) and his wife, Sandy, Kyle (my grandson) and his wife, Rebecca along with Sugar, their dog, participated. My pie contest earned extra money again also. The Walk/Run ended up with **\$85,512**.

Denise and I enjoyed the September Council Meeting and want to thank Gamma Beta for hosting it. We're proud of our new president, Amanda Dixon, and the smooth meeting she ran.

A birthday breakfast with Ashley Eddie and Evan Hutton gave me a chance to order my special breakfast of a waffle with fruit and whipped cream with a scoop of ice cream in the middle! Then I was saddened to hear the news that Evan was leaving St. Jude. With a shortage of personnel at the ALSAC office, he scrambled from event to event the past year and he will be missed.

A certain group of four quilters, (Brenda Meyers, Carol Hazelett, Kathi Silvey and me) used the trip to Peoria, Illinois, for the MARC Conference as an excuse to go a couple days early to "visit" quilt shops . . . . was it 8 the first day and 5 the second

day? Who's counting? Denise and her granddaughter, Lydia Grace, joined us at the hotel.

The Leadership speakers were interesting and informative. The donations from Ohio received good bids and the fundraiser for the MARC treasury was successful. We are proud to have Amanda Dixon elected Vice President.

November was the usual "chocolate" month for our chapter. We made and sold 150 boxes of candy so now we have money to finance our philanthropic projects.

The St. Jude WGAR Cares for Kids Radiothon was held December 7 and 8. They no longer allow a group to answer a bank of phones but I was able to visit on the 8<sup>th</sup> and see their new studio. I enjoyed the excitement of pledges coming in and the event was very successful; the final total was **\$255,045.50!**

The groundbreaking for the next St. Jude Dream Home was the morning of December 13. Denise and I went to hand out t-shirts that evening at the "Bricks and Sticks" event.

Our ticket sales will be February 22. Here we go again!

Sarah Bistline was busy looking after her husband, Norm, as he was recovering in a rehab facility. She had Covid during that time. Norm is home now and anxious to get back to his normal activities.

Happy New Year!

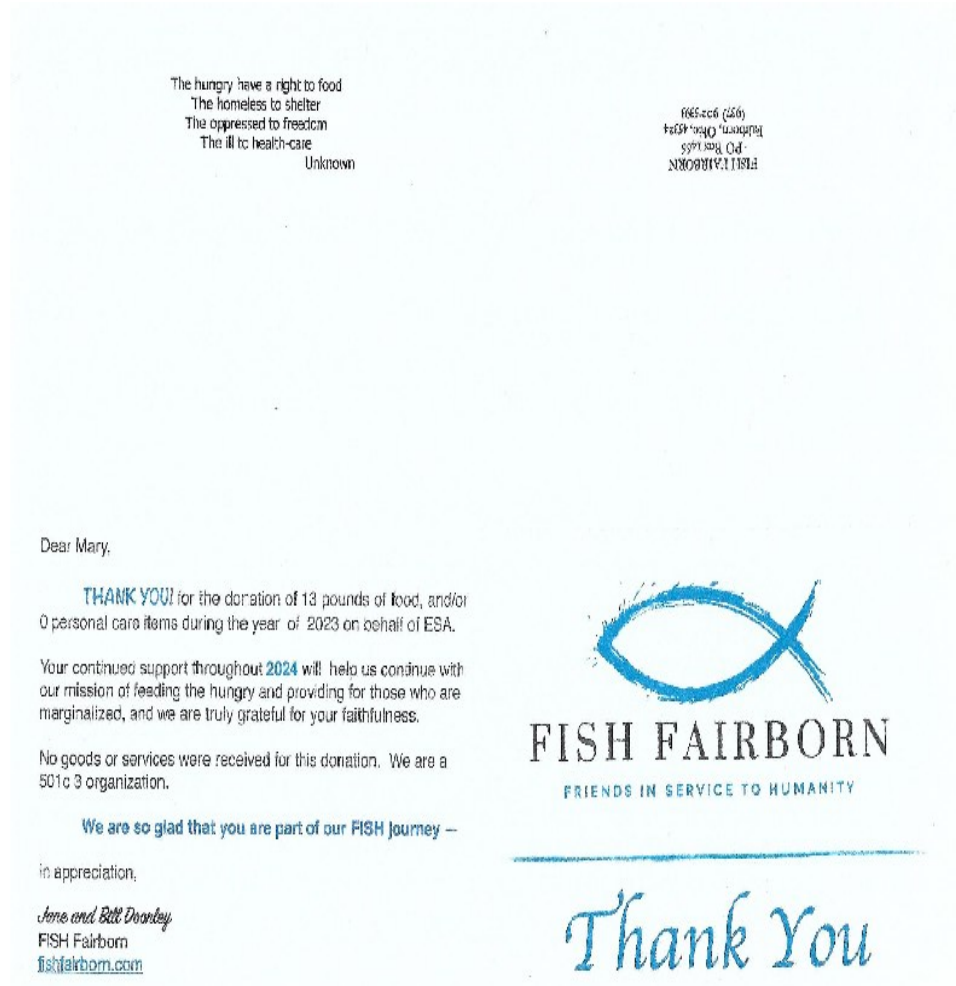
Shirley Krcmar, President





## CHAPTER CHATTER ... GAMMA BETA

Thank you Fall Council Meeting attendees. We had 32 registrations. Lisa's first *Special Project* was to fill Blessing bags for the homeless with health items that you brought with you. After listening to our guest speaker, Jane Doorley and her husband Bill from the Fairborn Fish food pantry, you generously voted to give them all the items brought for the Blessing bags. Here is the **Thank You** that Mary received which is really for all of you.



As we say good by to 2023 it is fun to look back at the bonds we have with not only all of our ESA sisters, but particularly with our chapter sisters.

Gamma Kappa members have had some serious health issues. Elaine Harrison had two major surgeries, the second being basil cell cancer of the nose and reconstruction. After which she developed A fib and is now on heart medication. Amy Hudoba has some ongoing heart issues that are involving lots of testing. So far it is “stay the course.” Rita Eigel has been helping her husband recover from a minor stroke. Deborah Kirby is excited to be able to use a walker. She had a serious accident on Labor Day, when she went thru an outside step breaking several bones in her ankle, foot and hand. The initial “contraption” she wore to stabilize her foot was an engineering marvel. This freak accident has not stopped her from caring part time for a grandchild, being a consulting engineer for GE and insisting on hosting family Christmas at her home. Kathy Solt is going for bionic woman. She had back surgery involving lots of hardware, and now a devise inserted in her back to stimulate nerves to help with pain. Grace Striley has been in and out of rehabilitation to help with her activities of daily living. She is also in the process of moving to Kentucky in the spring.

Amy Hudoba is officially a graduate of The Miami Township Citizens Police Academy. The 10 week program educates these citizens of community oriented policing of crime reduction activities and forms relationships

with neighborhood associations. It provides hands-on-learning which allows the public to see what they do, how they do it, and why. One of Amy’s favorite things was a ride along with an officer. It really opened her eyes to how many different things happen on a daily basis. There was also a visit to the jail as well as the shooting range. Yes she actually shot a gun (with help).

Gamma Kappa was busy in November putting our auction item (totes with activities for children) for St. Jude. Shout out to Rita Eigel for the two handmade totes for this project. This project was perfect, as every member was able to contribute.

October and November had GK busy writing and decorating 500 personal notes of appreciation for service and hope for recovery to our local veterans. Each note was different, as the messages came from the hearts of each member. Big thank you to Rita’s granddaughters, Kaitlyn and Emily who helped write and decorate many of the cards. One member commented that when her hand would get tired of writing and starting to cramp, she thought of our veterans, who put their lives on the line every day for our freedom. Our Notes were distributed to our local VA hospital and the veterans program at easterseals. We even got a shout out from one of the local TV stations for our work. We didn’t forget our own families who had served in the military. We sent those veterans cards from the chapter.

Educational programs have

focused on history of various restaurants. Our Christmas luncheon was held at the Century Inn, which is one Cincinnati’s oldest inns, built in 1806, and the first to offer draft beer. The current owner’s wife came over and chatted with us about some current happenings with the inn, including this is where she met her husband.

Cheers to a new year, with good health and many successes for ESA.

Amy Hudoba: Graduate of The Miami Township Citizens Police Academy



**Amy displays her shooting results.**



### Joyous winter greetings from Sigma Chi

At Christmas time, blessings and joy abound. We celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus and give gifts to those we love and to others less fortunate. Heartfelt joy and thanksgiving are shared. I love the message of joy and symbolism every time I read the story about two couples who experience surprise announcements of their first-time pregnancies: Mary & Joseph, and Elizabeth (Mary's cousin) & Zechariah. Zechariah was told by angel Gabriel that his prayers had been answered. God had chosen him and Elizabeth to bear a son who would be the forerunner of the promised. They were to name him John (later we find out he'll be John the Baptist), and he would be filled with the Holy Spirit and dedicated to the Lord's service even before birth. He doubted the angel since he and his wife were old. Elizabeth became pregnant, just as the angel had said. When she was in her sixth month, the angel Gabriel also appeared to Mary telling her she would be the mother of the Messiah, Jesus and that Elizabeth in her old age was pregnant with a son. Mary wondered how this could happen since she had no relations with a man. In haste, Mary gathered her things and traveled to spend time with Elizabeth, where she received further confirmation of the angel's words. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, *"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."* From the Infancy narrative in Luke 1:5-45

In ESA, we're reminded of our purpose, using our talents, and giving and sharing in our community and other organizations. With ESA traditions and programs - Opening and Closing Rituals, the Jewel Pin Ceremony, and our good work we do as a small group of women - we see our importance as a guiding light.

### Philanthropy - 2023

#### Alzheimer Association of Greater Cincinnati Bingo fundraiser

Sigma Chi teamed up with West Chester Assisted Living for a **"Bingo For A Cause"** fundraiser. The event was held on SATURDAY, November 4th from 2-4pm. There were door prizes and basket giveaways. Beverages, appetizers and desserts were served. It was a fun afternoon with 32 attendees – including West Chester Assisted Living residents (Cathy Campbell is a resident and Sigma Chi member) and some residents' guests, Sigma Chi members and guests, Delta Chi members and a guest, and Gamma Kappa (**see pics attached**). **Proceeds of \$456 went to Alzheimer's Association – and was matched x3 from another donor.** Thank you to sisters from Delta Chi-Nancy Bolander, Beth Laage, Jill Montgomery (and guest Julie), and Gamma Kappa-Maddie Kurzynski for attending and your support. Many thanks also to West Chester Assisted Living for arranging this event with Tonya Campbell (Sigma Chi) and the use of their facility.

### St. Jude Children's Research Hospital events

**St. Jude WALK/RUN – remote at Weller Park in Montgomery/Cinti, Sept 2023:**

Team "Sigma Chi of ESA – Cincinnati" held our remote 2023 St. Jude Walk event at Weller Park. We had a good turn out of 16 walkers (members and guests) and virtual donors. We also had 3 people from the park walk over to our table and donate \$22. **Our total donations for St. Jude was \$1,280.** Thank you to everyone who participated. We couldn't do it without your support.

**"Bunco For St. Jude Kids" – Cinti, Sunday, April 7, 2024:**

Mark your calendars ladies and gents for our St. Jude fundraiser “**Bunco For St. Jude Kids**” on **Sunday, April 7, 2024 from 2-4pm** (1 week after Easter) at **Symmes Township Safety Center, 8871 Weekly Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45249 – same place as last year.** Event flier is included in this issue of the BJ. Scan the QR code on the flier for event info: Facebook event page, directions, add to calendar.

### **Matthew 25: Ministries:**

We continue volunteering at the M25:M facility in Blue Ash and contribute with supplies/financially as needed to aid in ongoing disasters and those who are in need. Last September, 7 bags of winter hats, scarves, winter vests and blankets – hand-knitted by Debbie Martins (Sigma Chi) – were donated to Matthew 25: Ministries and then delivered to *The Appalachian School Children*.

### **Pregnancy Center Plus – Madisonville/Cinti:**

In the Fall of 2023, we purchased and delivered 5 more baby car seats for the Pregnancy Center and will continue this for 2024.

### **Hope for Heroes**

#### **Yellow Ribbon Support Center (YRSC) – Halloween candy (Nov 1, 2023):**

Halloween candy was taken to YRSC – Keith Maupin’s organization in honor of his son Matt Maupin – where it is then boxed and shipped to soldiers overseas.

#### **Cincinnati VA Hospital – winter hats, gloves, socks (Nov. 2023):**

Sigma Chi brought a nice collection of new hats, gloves, flannel shirts, pants, and other warm clothing/items to Cincinnati VA Medical Center for our Veterans who've served our country.

### **MS Gift of Hope – Dec. 2023**

The MS “Gift of Hope” celebrated its 20th Anniversary this year serving the MS community who are in need of financial assistance. On Saturday, December 10th, 2022, we had the opportunity to help 7 Families at the Riverhills Neuroscience office in Norwood. It was another incredible year for these special families because of all the caring people who made it all possible. Each family received \$700 cash, and up to \$300 in gift cards (from the Fulcher family) and a Xmas bag with a stuffed animal and Xmas throw. They also met former Bengals football player David Fulcher and his wife Judy. They both have been big supporters of the “MS Gift of Hope” since the beginning.

### **Educational Programs - 2023**

#### **Alzheimer’s Association of Greater Cincinnati speaker – Oct. 2023:**

Kelsey Nihiser, Program Mgr of Alzheimer’s Association (Cinti.) gave an informative presentation on understanding Dementia and Alzheimer’s along with other causes of dementia. She also reviewed handouts covering some of the many programs and resources that Alzheimer’s Assn. provides free to seniors and families, including: Care Educational Programs where a professional resource presents each topic (from Safety for Seniors, to Understanding Senior Care and Living Options); Expert series-Free virtual program on caregiver support with dementia; Community Education Programs-virtual and in person at various locns.; Family Care Consultations; and Support Groups. Kelsey also said they need volunteers for the annual “Walk to End Alzheimer’s” usually in October, and there’s information on how to fund-raise for The Longest Day or other event at their website <https://www.alz.org/cincinnati>

#### **Dinosaur Exhibit at Krohn’s – Oct. 2023:**

Sigma Chi took a self-guided tour at the Krohn Conservatory. Krohn Conservatory opened in 1933 and is in Eden Park. The land previously belonged to Nicholas Longworth. He called the art deco structure his

Garden of Eden. The conservatory contains several rooms. These include florals, desert succulents, orchids, astonishing bonsai forests, an immersive tropical rainforest and a fern house. Our focus was on the seasonal floral showroom. The showroom is filled with man-made botanical sculptures of tyrannosaurus rex, triceratops, pterosaur and more. The conservatory is filled with prehistoric plants like cycads, horse-tails and ginkgo. The Dinosaur Exhibit was especially popular with young children as we saw groups from local schools on field trips at the Exhibit.

### **Celestial Holiday at Krohn Conservatory Christmas – Dec. 2023:**

We loved seeing the Christmas display of poinsettias, and replicas of iconic Cincinnati buildings inside the Krohn Conservatory. At the end of each October, the volunteers and staff at the conservatory begin the transformation of hand-built wooden railways, several poinsettia varieties, variegated plants and sparkling holiday lights. The display replicates many popular buildings and places in Cincinnati. Trains bustle around hefty replicas of Findlay Market, Union Terminal, the Great American Insurance building, Mt. Adams incline, Fountain Square and many of the city's architecturally beautiful churches. The latest addition to this year's collection is an eight-foot model of Music Hall that sits in the center of the display. The detail work is amazing. Like the other structures in the collection, it is constructed of pinecone, seed pod and tree bark. Only natural materials are used. The labor-intensive process takes 1000+ hours to create.

### **Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage – slide show presentation by Amy Gross, Sigma Chi:**

**On January 2, 2024 Amy Gross (Sigma Chi) gave a slide show presentation to our members and a few guests sharing her experience on the 500 mile walk “Camino” pilgrimage.** She was inspired to do the Camino pilgrimage after watching the DVD movie “The Way” directed by Emilio Estevez and starring his father, Martin Sheen. The movie's storyline: *An American father travels to France to retrieve the body of his estranged son, who died while attempting the pilgrimage to Spain's Santiago de Compostela. He resolves to take the journey himself - in an effort to understand both himself and his son.*

Amy and her friend Barb started their walking Pilgrimage on 10/4/2023 at **Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, France** (close to Spain's border) and traveled west - following the Camino trail through a variety of landscapes and elevations. The route goes along the Pyrenees and pastoral views through small villages and large towns. Along the way she met many new friends from Europe, US and Asia. She explored new foods, culture and historical monuments/markers related to the Pilgrimage. Each pilgrim's passport book is stamped everyday as they travel along the Camino way (**see collage pics attached**). Amy and Barb set their walking plan in advance to have registered overnight accommodations at local inns. As normal siestas start in Spain at 3pm, Amy would usually arrive at her room around this time – while the townspeople were resting for evening fun. At 8pm, the towns were alive with much activity and people celebrating – while Amy and Barb were resting their sore legs and gathering their spirit for the next morning's early rise. They averaged about 18 miles/day.

Amy and Barb reached the **end of their pilgrimage on 11/8/23 (33 days, 500 miles walking)** at **Santiago de Compostela, Spain**. It's tradition for the pilgrims to visit the Santiago de Compostela cathedral to hopefully stay for a mass and witness the ‘Botafumeiro’ – the famous giant thurible or censer (1 of the largest in the world). An impressive 5.25 feet tall and weighing between 100-352 lbs, the botafumeiro is filled with incense and coal by the ‘tiraboleiros’, tied to a rope hanging by the altar and set in motion, forming an impressive 65-meter long arched trajectory - video can be watched at “youtube santiago de compostela cathedral botafumeiro” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45fNNo77WUU>

At Santiago de Compostela, each pilgrim who has traveled the entire Camino route (~500 miles) and those who have walked the last 100 kilometers will show their passport with proof of all their daily stamps and receive a personal Compostela Certificate on an ornate form – a beautiful memory for life.

## CHAPTER CHATTER ... SIGMA CHI (CONTINUED)

Amy ended her presentation reading the Camino Pilgrim's Prayer to all and handing out Santiago de Compostela bookmarks. Upon reflection, she said there are 3 stages you go through on the Camino Pilgrimage: physical, mental, and spiritual discovery. With the physical stress and pain of your body every day you pray at night for strength to get up early the next day and continue your journey.

Amy Thomin Gross pictures on facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/amy.thomingross>

"The Way" DVD starring Martin Sheen is available at the Public Library and can be purchased at Amazon.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheWayTheMovie/>

### **OSC Meeting Spring 2024 - Cincinnati**

**The OSC Spring 2024 meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2024** - hosted by Sigma Chi at the Symmes Safety Center in Cincinnati (same location as last year). Along with the business meeting and fun activity, a speaker from the *Alzheimer's Association (Greater Cinti)* will be giving a presentation. We hope everyone can join us. **Complete the registration form attached in the BJ. Deadline to send registration and check: Thursday, February 22, 2024**

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Blessings to all.

*Submitted by: Janet Ivers, Sigma Chi*



**Sue Schenz, Sigma Chi president, welcomes new member Judy Palmer, sponsored by her sister and member Barb Murray**

**Pictures from their various events**



**Bingo for Alzheimer's Assn fundraiser -Sigma Chi**



**Bingo for Alzheimer's Assn fundraiser  
Winner: Maddie Kurzynski**



**Bingo for Alzheimer's Assn fundraiser Sigma Chi-Janet Ivers;  
Delta Chi-Nancy Bolander, Beth Laage, Jill Montgomery & guest Julie;  
Gamma Kappa-Maddie Kurzynski**



**St Jude Walk**



**St. Jude WALK remote Team Sigma Chi**



**St. Jude WALK remote Team Sigma Chi**

# CHAPTER CHATTER ... SIGMA CHI (CONTINUED)

## More Sigma Chi Pictures



**MS Gift of Hope-Sharon Roll  
With an MS recipient**



**MS Gift of Hope-Sharon Roll  
With an MS recipient**



**MS Gift of Hope -Sharon Roll,  
David & Judy Fulcher, MS recipient**



**Amy Gross, Sigma Chi, slide show presentation to Sigma Chi members and guests sharing her Camino Pilgrimage in Spain/France– 500 miles, 33 days.**



## CHAPTER CHATTER ... PI XI

Happy New Year ESA Sisters!

Pi Xi started our ESA year with a great meeting making lots of plans to join, volunteer and raise money while spending time together. Our goal as a chapter is to complete The Power of Us Campaign during the 2023-2024 ESA year. We updated our chapter technology by creating a shared OneDrive to organize our documents and pictures. We celebrated our own Amanda Dixon on her marriage! We congratulated Amanda as well for serving as Ohio State President and several members of the chapter were able to travel to the Ohio State Council meeting in September.



October started with Amanda attending the MARC convention and coming back to share all the excitement with the Chapter, in addition to her MARC Vice President position! Pi Xi partnered with Wendy's Bridal of Columbus to hold our first annual Witches Walk. We planned this 5K Walk in Dublin, Ohio and were able to raise nearly \$800 for St. Jude. We submitted our Walk for The Power of Service. The Witches Walk also connected us to a member at large, who decided to join our chapter.... Welcome Vickie King!



November was full of fun events for Pi Xi. As a chapter we collected can tabs for the Pop Tab Challenge to benefit Ronald McDonald House. We were inspired at our State Meeting and decided to put together more "Blessing Bags" for the homeless. Our members stepped up to the challenge, bringing lots of items for our bags and assembling them together. Member Anastasia volunteered at the "Walk for Wishes" at the Columbus Zoo.

Pi Xi ladies Adara, Amanda, Anastasia, Cindy, Melissa, Traci & friend were able to attend the Fall Handbag Hullabaloo at the Hollywood Casino Columbus. We raised money for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio. It was a fun evening with lots of great food and Anastasia taking home a new handbag!

## CHAPTER CHATTER ... PI XI (CONTINUED)



Finishing our busy month, we walked the Chase Turkey Trot raising money for Easter Seals. Adara, Amanda, Anastasia, Melissa, Traci and several family members and friends joined us on Thanksgiving morning to walk.



In December Pi Xi wrapped up 2024 with our annual Holiday Dinner/Gift Exchange at Napa Kitchen. It was a lovely evening, we enjoyed dinner, gifts and friendships made through ESA.



Pi Xi is looking forward to the upcoming events, volunteering, conventions and completing The Power of Us Campaign in 2024!



**Ohio State Council Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 2, 2024**  
**Hosted by Sigma Chi**

**9-9:30am:** Light Breakfast food, beverages  
**9:30am:** Meeting Begins  
**12pm:** Lunch  
**1pm:** Guest speaker from Alzheimer’s Association (Greater Cinti)  
Finish business meeting  
Special project  
Adjourn

**Location:**  
Symmes Township Safety Center  
8871 Weekly Lane  
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Price: \$35

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**State Council Meeting Registration Form**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Lunch choice#</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

McAlister’s Deli – Lunch Box Sandwich Choices: #1 Black Forest Ham #2 Smoked Turkey #3 Veggie sandwich

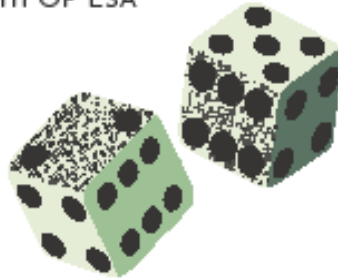
**Deadline to send registration and check: Thursday, February 22, 2024**

**Make checks payable to: Sigma Chi**

**Mail to: Debbie Martins, 1662 Kings Court, Kings Mills, OH 45034**

18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BENEFIT  
FOR ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL  
SPONSORED BY SIGMA CHI OF ESA

# Bunco for St. Jude Kids



Join us for a fun afternoon of Bunco, silent auctions, and prizes. A buffet with hearty appetizers, side dishes, desserts, and beverages will be provided.

**SUNDAY  
April 7th  
2-4 PM**

Sponsored by Sigma Chi of ESA  
For St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



Symmes Township Safety Center  
8871 Weekly Lane  
Cincinnati, OH 45249

CLIP & RETURN CARD BELOW WITH PAYMENT

Reservations are required due to limited seating. Call to reserve individual seats or tables for groups of 4 to 8.

Make checks payable to Sigma Chi of ESA.

**CALL OR RETURN PAYMENT TO:**

Debbie Martins (*Sigma Chi*)  
1662 Kings Court  
Kings Mills, OH 45034  
513-225-0294

Number of tickets; \_\_\_\_\_ at \$25 ea.

Total; \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name; \_\_\_\_\_

Address; \_\_\_\_\_

Phone; \_\_\_\_\_

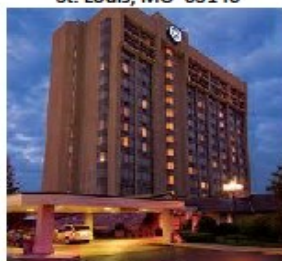
Email; \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket sold by; \_\_\_\_\_



The Torchbearers, Missouri State Council Past Presidents  
Formally invite you to the  
Midwest Area Regional Council  
39<sup>th</sup> Annual MARC Conference 2024  
October 11-12, 2024

Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel  
900 West Port Plaza Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63146



Registration - \$175.00  
Room Rate: \$159.00 + Tax (No limit for quests per room)  
Group rate available 3 days prior and post Conference  
Free WIFI  
Complimentary Parking  
Free Airport Shuttle runs every 30 minutes





EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA



ESA is a premiere leadership/service organization that offers members the programs, information and personal support needed to develop the confidence and competence to impact the world in a positive way.

Through a network of chapters in the US and abroad, an ESA member has the opportunity to form life-long friendships and share the power to make a difference. That difference is felt close to home and in far-reaching ways by membership participation in community service and major philanthropic projects.

To help you become your personal best, ESA International will provide leadership training, seminars, education programs and the challenge to develop individual strengths. All the while, your fellow ESA members will help you reach those goals.

**Business Tagline or Motto**

EDITOR . . . KATHLEEN SEEWER



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Thank you to all who submitted an article and pictures. Think about contributing an article for the next *BJ* if you were unable to send one for this issue.

Articles for the Spring BJ issue are due:

**March 7, 2024  
date change**

Kathleen Seewer  
Editor

## Smile of the Day

May your troubles be less  
And your blessings be more.  
And nothing but happiness  
Comes through your door.

**Happy New Year 2024**



SMILEYJOE