



Happy New Year!

I hope everyone is staying safe and warm during these frigid temperatures!

Attached is the invite for the Eastern District Leadership meeting on Saturday, February 17th at the Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee (all details are on the attachment).

I hope you'll be able to join us, as we have some great speakers and a fun event planned!

- Please RSVP to me, ASAP.
- Please let me know if you have a report and I'll include you on the agenda.
- Please let me know if you have a document/flyer you would like to include in the program packet and send to me prior to February 2nd.
- Please let me know if you have any dietary restrictions.

Below is the proposed slate of officers for Eastern District for 2024-2025:

- Coordinator: Cheryl Young
- Vice Coordinator: Mara Wheeler
- Secretary: Brenda Yates
- Treasurer: Margaret Kramer
- Parliamentarian: Dawn Haley

Sandy Lackey, the Eastern District Project Chair, will be holding a **Silent Auction for the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma**. **Please bring a gently used purse with maybe a surprise inside!** Also, if your chapter hasn't done so already, they may want to make a monetary donation to the Eastern District Project.

We will have a speaker from The Spring Shelter (www.thespringok.org). Below is a list of in-kind donations they need. Please feel free to bring some items to help them out.

Adult & kids shampoo & conditioner	Adult & kids body wash and/or bar soap
Toothbrushes	Children's toothpaste
Deodorant	Wash clothes & towels
Baby wipes	Twin size linens
Toilet paper	Paper towels

Finally, attached are the minutes from the August Eastern District Meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone next month!

Dawn Haley
Eastern District Coordinator



Eastern District Meeting – “Lead with Love and Kindness”
Highland Park Christian Church in Tulsa
MINUTES – August 19, 2023

Dawn Haley, Eastern District Coordinator, from Gamma Delta Chapter in Tulsa, called the meeting to order at 10:02am. She introduced herself, welcomed all the members, and explained her theme, “Lead with Love and Kindness”. Dawn stressed the importance of positivity and the benefits of looking at the positive instead of the negative. Dawn also encouraged members to take pictures during today’s meeting, use the photo frame and backdrop, and post on social media.

All the members recited the Opening Ritual and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Charlotte Levario from Gamma Delta, Tulsa, shared a thought for the day: “Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.” JM Barrie

Introductions were made for the current Eastern District Officers:

Cheryl Young – Vice President

Margaret Kramer – Treasurer

Kristin Sullivan – Secretary (absent-Isabella Sinor & Darlene Cushenberry will take meeting minutes)

Darlene Cushenberry – Parliamentarian

Sandra Lackey – Project Director

Charlotte Levario – Chaplain

Dawn also introduced the IC Officers, State Officers, and Chairs

Sooner Senioresses were asked to stand and were recognized by the group.

First time members were asked to stand and introduce themselves.

- April Horton
- Janet Chaffin

Dawn announced the roll call will be taken from the sign-in sheet.

Transition Academy Choir: Director – Nuceka Chatman who described her group and the mission and core values of the New Leaf Transition Academy. The President of Choir, Audrey, explained the purpose of the choir and the importance of inclusion. The girls spoke about the things they like about being a part of the Transition Academy, including being together and seeing the growth in themselves and each other. Confidence, socializing, independence, and self-sufficiency are some of the things they have learned. They shared their goals of living independently, earning a competitive wage, finding a job, and becoming a veterinary assistant.



The girls shared that they each have different things they are doing, such as: working in customer service at Bill Knight Ford and leading Jesus Club that meets once a month.

ESA member Brenda Yates spoke about the inspiration that Autumn has given her.

Sunny Leigh from KTUV Channel 8: Sunny shared her story of getting involved in radio and television and the story of her son, Nick, who is diagnosed with Autism. Sunny described the first signs she noticed, including Nick not making eye contact as well as the importance of support from people who are experiencing similar things. She talked about joining different chat rooms and researching Autism. Nick is now 22 and is a part of the Transition Academy at A New Leaf. Sunny stressed the importance of advocacy, laws, and changes that need to be made to benefit people who are living with Autism. Sunny asked ESA members to thank any businesses who works with people with disabilities as it is very important for their growth and independence. To end her talk, Sunny shared her story of being kicked out of the Academy Awards. It was also Sunny's birthday, so ESA members sang "Happy Birthday" to her.

Kayla Schoen, St. Jude Parent of Hudson Schoen: Kayla is the mother of Hudson, who is diagnosed with Neuroblastoma. Kayla and her family's story began in July 2021, when Hudson, 2-years-old and initially diagnosed with Stage IV Neuroblastoma. Kayla described the process of how Hudson became a St. Jude patient through Saint Francis, who is a St. Jude affiliate. When Hudson was diagnosed, they were told his treatment would be 12-18 months, which caused her and her husband to move to be with Hudson. Throughout Hudson's treatments, he went through radiation, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and transplants as well as a relapse. Hudson is currently cancer free and will begin Pre-K this year. Hudson was the 2023 recipient of the Dream Playground. Kayla discussed how St. Jude staff/employees became a support for them and were like friends and family. Kayla shared pictures from St. Jude and explained how the hospital is set up as well as the Target House where they stayed during Hudson's treatment. If you would like to follow along with Hudson's journey, Kayla created a social media page on Facebook called "Helping Heal Hudson". Kayla shared the importance of the song "Million Little Miracles" to their story. Kayla also stressed the importance of St. Jude support and how that benefited her family. She thanked ESA for their support of St. Jude.

District Project – Sandy Lackey, Project Director

Sandy talked about the 50/50 raffle today and encouraged members to participate. She also talked about Route 66 Wine Bottle lights that are for sale. She has 14 available; 2 are available for purchase today, and she will take orders for those who would like to purchase after those 2 are sold. They should be available at the Leadership Conference. Later in the day, potential projects will be discussed and voted on. Sandy explained that new projects are voted on every 3 years, and this year we are due to vote.

Charlotte Levario prayed for the lunch meal.

After lunch, Dawn introduced Terri Skidmore and Krista Pine from A New Leaf, and they talked about the succulent bar they had set up and explained how to put together a succulent



arrangement. Eastern District members then participated in the fun, hands-on activity of selecting their succulents and making their arrangements.

Dawn called the Eastern District Leadership Meeting to Order

Kristin Sullivan was unable to attend the meeting, so Dawn presented the Eastern District February minutes. There were no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved. The minutes will be filed as emailed.

Treasurer's Report: Margaret Kramer-Beta Iota, McAlester

Treasurer's Report August 19, 2023

Central Bank Balance March 31,2023	\$1,337.72
Account closed	
Arvest Account Beginning Balance June 15, 2023	\$1,437.73

Credit 8/15/2023

Dues Gamma Delta	\$ 20.00
District Project Donation	\$ 25.00
Total Credits	\$ 45.00

Debit 8/15/23

Reimburse M. Kramer-use of personal check	
To open account	\$100.00
Total Debit	\$100.00

Arvest Bank Balance as of August 19, 2023	\$1, 382.72
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Dawn asked if there were any discussions, having none Dawn asked for all in favor to respond yes, opposed no. The Budget was approved as presented.

Parliamentarian: Darlene Cushenberry

Darlene asked members to please consider serving on next year's Eastern District Board.

IC Officers, State Officers, and Chairs Reports:

State President: Patty Heer

Patty asked members to consider being officers for next year.

She discussed the State Council Leadership Conference to be held September 16th at St. Crispin's Conference Center, 36302 State Highway 9, Wewoka, OK. Registration will begin at 9:30, and the meeting will begin at 10:00am. The cost will be \$15.00 per person, and the RSVP will be to Peggy Campbell. There will be ESA Shopping on the Mall. If you wish to participate it will be \$10.00 a table, and doors will open at 9:00 a. m. to set up tables. Patty encouraged members to bring a new or gently-used sweatshirt to the Leadership Meeting. Please let Patty or Gina Wozencraft know if there are any changes in the Directory.



First Vice President/ Nominating Committee: Darla Barton

Darla had an “I Want You” sign and explained the need for Board Members. She still needs two for her Executive Board—Treasurer and Parliamentarian. She needs several for her General board. Darla provided copies of the positions’ duties from the Blue Book for the positions that remain. Her Theme is “Footprints of ESA,” and she would love for your footprints to join hers.

IC Educational Chair: Jacque Cantrel

Jacque explained that the first, second, and third place educational books at the State Convention are taken to IC Convention. There they select the top 10 educational books which this year included Beta Gamma’s (Peggie Sprinkle) and Gamma Zeta’s (Jacque Cantrel) educational books. Gamma Zeta’s book took first place. Jacque also informed the group that the Palace Athene requirements have been revamped.

IC Workshop Director and State Project Director: Margaret Kramer

Margaret announced that the IC convention will be in Overland Park, Kansas, next year and encouraged everyone to come for a fun experience. If you have workshop ideas, please share them with her.

State Project Director: Margaret said this is the year to decide on the recipients of the project funds. They are hoping to have the February Eastern District Meeting at OSB. She encouraged members to write letters to the students and consider donating to the State Project.

Jr. Past President/Disaster Fund Chair: Linda Jones

Linda said to please remember to contribute to the Disaster Fund. Your contributions help ESA members and their families who have suffered from disasters. You can make checks payable to the ESA Disaster Fund and mail them to Linda Jones, 4716 West Ocala Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74011.

ESA Foundation Counselor: Vivan Gibson

Vivan’s report was given by Linda Jones. Vivan reminded everyone to apply for scholarships as they should be available in September. If you are contributing, use the main contribution forms posted on the website whenever possible. These forms include the current endowment names and make it easier to process the contributions. She also asked to please consider donating to the Grant Fund. Grants go to supporting non-traditional/non-college awards for continuing education and those looking to advance in their careers.

As past State President, Linda said she loved seeing Oklahoma shine in awards at IC Convention. Linda won the Outstanding State President of the Year Award at IC this year!

State Chaplain: Jacci Gantz

Jacci gave a report on all the cards she had sent out these past few months. So also asked if we would let her know if there has been a need in our chapters, and she needs to send cards.

State Membership Chair: Linda Voss

Linda said she is encouraged by what she is seeing and hearing about members encouraging each other and doing exciting things to make people know what ESA is truly about. She mentioned several chapters' activities to reach out to others to tell people about ESA and asked that we let her know what we are doing. She challenged us to think of three good things before one negative thought each day.

Eastern District Vice Coordinator: Cheryl Young

Cheryl reported that the revised contest forms will be uploaded after the website is updated. If you need copies sooner than State Leadership, email her, and she will send them to you.

TAC President: Judi York

Judi talked about the St. Jude Walk/Run which will be held in Tulsa, September 30th at ONEOK Field. She encouraged us all to sign up to either participate or volunteer.

State Educational Chair: Peggie Sprinkle

Peggie encouraged everyone to "Stop and Smell the Roses." A reminder to all of us to slow down and experience and enjoy our surroundings, especially flowers. Peggie had flower seeds for everyone and gave Dawn a beautiful vase of flowers from her yard.

NEW BUSINESS:**Eastern District Project Chair: Sandy Lackey**

For a fundraiser Sandy put together a 50/50 jar and donated two Bottles of wine. Judy Cravens won the 50/50 drawing of \$65.00. Sandy also donated a purse, and Mara Wheeler won that. Sandy suggested that chapters do a fundraiser to help support the project. Members voted to select The Food Bank of Eastern Ok as our project for the next three years.

With no further business or announcements, Dawn announced that the meeting was adjourned, and the members recited the Closing Ritual.

Minutes taken by Isabella Sinor and Darlene Cushenberry.