

Oklahoma State Council of ESA
State Council Meeting
March 8, 2014

The Oklahoma State Council meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by State President Tina Davenport McKamie. Tina led members in the opening ritual. Joyce Gibson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Nellrita Barrick, gave the devotional for the day on motivation about an 8 year old boy named Dennis and his pet turtle, Oscar.

Tina introduced the fabulously adorable, Sooner Seniorettes and asked if they had enjoyed their muffins this morning. She passed out muffins to those that hadn't had one. She thanked them and said their sweet smiles brighten our day!

She asked if everyone had registered and paid for lunch and if not, they needed to see the Treasurer, Margaret Kramer. She reminded all that attendance would be taken from registration.

The committee to read the minutes today's meeting is Chairman, Deb Hughes with members Gwen Beasley and Charlene Law.

The committee to read the minutes of the November 9th State Council Leadership was Chairman Mary Adams with members, Dawn Haley and Maggie Sellers. Mary Adams reported that the minutes will be placed on file as printed.

Treasurer, Margaret Kramer presented her report. We have 41 chapters that paid state dues with 532 members. General Fund beginning balance as of November 1, 2013 was \$7,172.89. Total income was \$2,616.63 and total disbursements were \$2,842.63. General Fund ending balance as of March 5, 2014 is \$6,946.89

Speaker's Fund beginning balance was \$921.96. Interest from CD was \$16.01. Ending balance is \$937.97.

IC Campaign Fund balance is \$219.36.

Doer's Fund balance is \$172.25.

2012 IC Convention Deposit Balance is \$5,515.14

Certificate of Deposit balance is \$4,002.07

If anyone has any reimbursements, please see Margaret today since the books have to be closed by April 1st.

Directory Chairman, Judi York thanked everyone for buying directories and said she had two left and they were half price now after January 1. They sold on the spot so she ended up selling all directories this year. She said that at the back of today's handout there is a Chapter Roster form to be used for submitting chapter information for the directory next year.

Judi recommended that we maintain the directory cost at \$8. Lora Thompson, Zeta Gamma, Shawnee made the motion. Charlene Law, Gamma Delta seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petticoat Journal Editor, Lori Few said this has been a labor of love. She explained that there is a lady in Florida with her name and she has gotten quite a few of Lori's emails and has been so kind in forwarding them to her. If your article didn't make it in the current issue it will go in the next one. She reminded all that the deadline for the April/May issue is March 10th which is Monday, so please get your articles to her.

Lori recommended the cost of the PJ subscription remain at \$15.00 for the coming year but we will probably need to reconsider the price due to increasing costs in postage and copies. Linda Southerland, Beta Psi, Clinton made the motion. Maxine Wheelan, Delta Chi, Midwest City seconded the motion. Motion carried.

In the April/May issue there will be an important subscription form to use for the following year's PJ subscriptions.

Lori Few is also the Convention Program Chairman and she reported that the ad form is in the back of the PJ and also on the website. The deadline for ad submissions is March 15th but she has extended it to April 1. You can send in the ads via regular mail or email. She also told the members that the convention program will be printed in color this year.

Her email address is lorilfew@gmail.com.

Jr. Past President/Disaster Fund Chairman, Joyce Gibson passed around 3 special jars for donations. These are special because the one that has the most donations will cause our President Tina to step out of her box. Each one is tagged with a name of an activity that she will perform for us on skit night at the State Convention. We wonder which it will be, using a hula hoop, twirling a baton or doing an impersonation. . . . She reported that there were two claims paid this year and she was thankful we were able to do that. She will accept donation until April 1 and she reported that one of the recipients was one that we lost earlier this year and there will be an article in the PJ on that.

Convention Chairman, June Miller asked if we were ready for convention and if we had paid our registration fees and made our hotel reservations. We have 62 registered so far but we need more, 100 would be nice, in order to have a good convention. The hostess chapters are Beta Iota, McAlester; Alpha Zeta, Pawhuska and Epsilon Kappa, Hominy.

The talk on the street is that the hotel has run out of double-double rooms. It is true but we still have plenty of kings for now but recommended to call as soon as possible and make your reservations. June asked if anyone should need to cancel a reservation for a double-double room to please let her know and she can help find someone to take it.

She expects to have a wonderful convention. Everything with the hotel is running smoothly except the room block. Some of the convention events will include an Association of the Arts tea, a Spring Fashion Fling and of course the Friday night auction, mixer, skits and the board dinner. Saturday, there will be the Flag Ceremony, workshops and much, much more.

June asked the members to please support our convention by buying the raffle tickets, etc. One special event at convention is that we are going to have special entertainment after the Installation Banquet Saturday night. We are going to have a dance demonstration by a group called the Ballroom Blitz. If you

have a pair of red shoes please be sure and wear them. June also said to look in the PJ for the tentative convention agenda.

First Vice-President/Nominating Committee Chairman, Linda Southerland introduced the candidates for the 2014-2015 year:

District V Coordinator – Jane Thomas	1 st Vice-President – Billye Peterson
District IV Coordinator – Linda Leveridge	Corresponding Secretary – Robbin Brown
District III Coordinator – Charlene Law	Sr. Past President – Joyce Gibson
District II Coordinator – Carrie Willingham	Jr. Past President – Tina Davenport McKamie
PJ Editor – Rita Hains	President - Linda Southerland
Project Director – Margaret Kramer	
Parliamentarian – Lori Few	
Recording Secretary – Robyn Ryan	
Treasurer – Joyce Lacey Kenney	
2 nd Vice -President (two candidates) – Nancy Baucom & Peggie Sprinkle	

Linda has all her chairs filled except for ESA for St. Jude, Hope for Heroes and Contest Chairman so she asked for anyone willing to take one of these to please step up.

In keeping with one of the goals of IC President, Vicky Jones - making us aware of the growing problem of Literacy, Lori Few introduced our special guest speaker, McAlester's Outstanding Teen, Miss Camryn Sanders. Camryn spoke about her platform "The Storybook Exchange". She explained there are 4 points on her crown and they stand for Style, Service, Success and Scholarship. Under her service point, she created The Storybook Exchange which is based on the emphasis and importance of literacy in our communities.

There are one million people that cannot read and the biggest barrier is the price of books. The Webster Dictionary defines exchange as the act of giving and receiving another thing in return. The Storybook Exchange encourages young readers to give a gently used book and get a new book more suitable for their interest no in their age group. Her initial objective was to introduce 5,000 new or gently used books to new owners at no cost to the child or parent. They have surpassed that goal and are now at above 6,000. She went on to explain the many ways she was able to achieve this.

Camryn gets to compete in the Miss Teen Oklahoma pageant in June and if she wins, she hopes to get 50,000 books in homes of children as Miss Teen Oklahoma.

President Tina had Margaret Kramer pass around a donation basket for those that wanted to donate money to Storybook Exchange.

Nellrita Barrick suggested that Camryn should be recommended to be in the IC program at the next IC Convention.

The Energizer, Rosalie Griffith gave us a trivia quiz.

Tina announced that the State Auditor, Janet Goodfox will be in the lobby for anyone that has books ready to be audited. She reminded everyone about the different raffles and sales then we had a 10 minute break.

Linda Leveridge, Association of the Arts Chairman told us about the tea that will be the first event of State Convention. It's for everyone not just for the members checking in their art work so please be sure to come by and say hello.

She said she had submission forms if anyone needs one and asked everyone to please enter their creations and gave suggestions on the different kinds of things that can be submitted...anything from poetry to sewing, cross stitch, pictures, holiday items, etc. She really wants her room to be full of all the wonderful arts and crafts made by us. Deadline for submissions is April 1st.

Second Vice-President/Educational Director, Billye Peterson gave an educational on how to make Boo Boo Bunnies. Not only are they used for bumps and bruises but they can also be used as finger puppets. To go along with the IC President's theme, she suggested we use them as finger puppets while telling the story of Runaway Bunny to a Kindergarten class, etc.

As we were finishing up our Boo Boo Bunnies, Billye introduced ESA member, Maggie because she took the educational idea and "ran" with it. She made the hand cream, sold it and raised \$100 for St. Jude.

Rosalie Griffith reminded the members to be sure to send all money raised for St. Jude to ESA Headquarters and Headquarters will forward it on to St. Jude.

Nellrita gave the blessing and the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

We reconvened at 12:42 p.m. by singing Happy Birthday to Jane Thomas.

Tina announced that \$100 was raised for the Storybook Exchange.

Corresponding Secretary, Jennifer Stewart read a thank you card from Mary Adams.

President Tina asked if there were any pledges and first time attendees with us today. We had one pledge and two first timers in attendance.

Easter Seals Chairman, Judy Cravens had Maxine Wheelan read a letter from Easter Seals Development and Marketing Director, Carissa Rollins thanking ESA for all we've done for Easter Seals and our commitment to serving. Some events coming up are: May 20th – Homeland Golf, June 27th – Blast from the Past Fundraiser and September 20th – Redman Tri-Athalon and as in the past they'd love our help with these events. Judy reported that she has received monies from 10 chapters totaling \$1,460.50. State Council raffles and sales total so far is \$759.00. State convention \$911.33. Grand total so far to Easter Seals is \$3,130.83.

Judy reminded everyone that she needs the year-end report form from all chapters that have sent monies in to Easter Seals and the deadline is April 1st for those that might want to make a donation.

Linda Southerland and Billye Peterson reported on the IC Leadership Conference that they attended in February in Denver, Colorado.

Billye Peterson spoke about a new project – Santa Hugs by Santa America. It's for Autistic children, children in hospice care, chronically ill children, etc. Santa Hugs are made from Christmas colored fleece.

The fleece is cut into scarves and mittens. The mittens are sewn onto each end of the scarf so the children can place them around their necks, put their hands in the mittens and then hug themselves. This is to remind them that they are always loved and cared about. Santa John from Santa America was at the IC Leadership and pleaded for our help in making these for the children. So, ESA has pledged to make 4,000 per year for the next two years.

Membership Director, Rita Hains reported that according to the current membership figures from Headquarters, we have 54 chapters and 727 members as of the end of February. President Tina's goal of 70 new members is close to becoming true. We've gotten 49 new members since last April. We only need 21 new people. She needs to know if anyone is bringing any of their new members to convention so she can recognize them.

Rita also spoke about ways to reach potential new members, especially the new generation, such as Facebook, etc. Deb Hughes has put together a Facebook page that Rita asked the members to go to it and like it. It is Epsilon Sigma Alpha (ESA) Oklahoma. It's an easy way to promote ESA because it is a public page to get something we're doing out there. Rita asked everyone to advertise by wearing something that has ESA on it on our outings, etc.

ESA Foundation Counselor, Vivian Gibson thanked everyone for the cards, phone calls and prayers. She has fully recovered from the stroke she had. Vivian spoke about the Foundation's Turn Around Fund. She asked the members to consider a planned gift to the ESA Foundation and for everyone to go back to their chapters and talk about donating items for the auction at convention.

The 2014 Convention skit was performed.

Linda Leveridge said she talked to Sue Cole at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf Wednesday and the bill to close OSD died in committee so they are safe for another year.

Hope for Heroes Chairman, Peggie Sprinkle reminded everyone that April 1 is the deadline for reports about Hope for Heroes projects. She's planning to give a little something to everyone who reports on Hope for Heroes. Peggie reported that thanks to Robbin Brown, her school and all the members we sent eleven care packages to our troops in Afghanistan for \$183.35 and she will be giving Billye Peterson \$286 for the Hugs Project today.

Peggie then read two thank you letters from troops in response to the care package sent to them.

Joyce Lacey Kenney reported that **Joy Agan, Distinguished Achievement Award Chairman**, had brain surgery and is still in Mercy Rehab Center in Oklahoma City and hopes to go home Friday, March 14. She has received entries for this award and they will be judged soon.

Joyce as Awards Chairman reminded everyone that the entries for "What ESA Means to Me" are due by April 1 and encouraged all to enter. Also, she reminded us to please be sure to send in (by the 1st) the information for any First Pearl Awards, Pallas Athene Awards and years of service.

Chaplain Nellrita Barrick reported that she has sent 60 cards out since November 8th – 20 get well, 14 sympathy, 15 thinking of you, 5 encouragements, 3 praying for you and 3 congratulations.

Nellrita recommended that when information is sent in to the Chaplain that we include the spouse's name since there isn't room in the directory now that we've added email.

Billye Peterson, Educational Director, reported which chapters she has received educational from so far. She asked that if her educationals have made a difference in your life or your chapters' lives, please send her a note so she can put it in her Mae Wells, a book she is fixing for IC Convention.

Sr. Past President, Gwynn Nell Swanson, also Workshop Coordinator for state convention let us know she's working on the workshops and already has some lined up.

Gwynn thanked everyone for all the cards and prayers we sent her way since her car accident.

Sylvia Ochs thanked all as well for the cards and prayers since her heart attack in January.

Charlene Law announced the Tulsa Area Council Founders Day Tea will be Sunday, May 4th at the Claire House in Tulsa and that they're having their annual Bunco Bash, Friday, August 8th.

Billye Peterson invited everyone to Gamma Zeta's Bunco for St. Jude Party next Sunday the 16th in Edmond. They do suggest a \$20 donation and they give away a lot of prizes. She has applications with her if anyone is interested in attending.

Jacque Edwards announced that she and Gwynn Nell Swanson as well as Rosalie Griffith, Judi York and Deb Hughes are attending the St. Jude's "Thank you ESA Day" in St. Louis the last weekend in March in case anyone else would be interested in going.

Rosalie Griffin announced that Sigma Chi, Inola is selling chances on a quilt and the quilt will be at convention in the Association of the Arts room. The money goes for their chapter scholarship fund.

50/50 consolation prize for today went to Joyce Lacey Kenney.

Bunnie Sullins announced that she has taken some time off from work so if you need to send her an email you need to send it to her home email address: nsullins@windstream.net.

Peggie Sprinkle had four drawings: the freedom basket went to Nellrita Barrick, the USA hanger went to Lola Jaegers, the bead kit went to Karen Barker and the Eagle picture went to Chantell Moss.

President Tina said that it's been not only an awesome day but an awesome year for her. She thanked everyone for all their love and support. She said she has absolutely loved every second as our President this year. She wished everyone a safe trip home and told us to be sure to pack our red shoes and will see us at convention.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. with the members reciting the closing ritual.

Submitted by:
Nancy Baucom
State Recording Secretary
2013-14