

Oklahoma State Council Meeting

March 12, 2022

Bedouin Shrine Temple – Muskogee, OK

The meeting was called to order, by President Sandy Lackey at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Sandy announced the State Board members were seated around the room and designated by tent cards. She would make introductions later. Sandy recognized the Sooner Senioresses that were present and thanked them for being part of her ESA "Journey." She stated that everyone who registered, for today's meeting, should have paid for lunch, because roll call will be taken from registration.

There was one guest; Kim Vincent who would be today's speaker. There was one first time attender and Pledge, from Gamma Zeta, Edmond.

Oklahoma Membership Chair, Sylvia Ochs reported that ESA Oklahoma had 42 chapters listed on the IC roster, but 37 chapters were listed in the Directory. Total ESA Oklahoma members were 524 as of 2/26/22.

President Sandy asked for a report from the committee to read the minutes from the September 2021 OK State Council Leadership Meeting; Chair, Gwen Beasley, along with Sylvia Ochs and Dawn Haley. Gwen wasn't present. Sandy asked Recording Secretary, Darla Barton if she had a report from Gwen, regarding the minutes. Darla reported that Gwen told her the minutes were correct as printed.

The committee to read today's minutes are Chair, June Miller, along with Lora Thompson and Jennifer Sparkman.

Sandy explained, for today's passport challenge, she was going to forgo the trivia questions. Instead, it was to see how many words you could make out of a series of letters. A copy of the letter page was on all tables.

Corresponding Secretary, Margaret Kramer read regrets.

Treasurer, Tammy Ramirez presented the Treasurer's Report:

Balance as of September 1, 2021 was \$3,363.33; Income was \$1,595.00; Expenses were \$1,210.24; Balance as of September 30, 2021 was \$3,748.09. The Money Market account balance was \$6,329.51; interest of .16¢ was added to the balance, making the final Money Market account balance \$6,329.67. Certificate of Deposit remains at \$4,000.

Balance as of October 1, 2021 was \$3,748.09; there was no income; Expenses were \$50.00; Balance as of October 31, 2021 was \$3,698.09. The Money Market account balance was \$6,329.67; interest of .16¢ was added to the balance, making the final Money Market account balance \$6,329.83. Certificate of Deposit remains at \$4,000.

Balance as of November 1, 2021 was \$3,698.09; Income was \$1,028.00; there were no expenses; Balance as of November 30, 2021 was \$4,726.09. The Money Market account balance was \$6,329.83; interest of \$1.17 was added to the balance, making the final Money Market account balance \$6,331. Certificate of Deposit remains at \$4,000.

Balance as of December 1, 2021 was \$4,726.09; Income was \$665.00; Expenses were \$45.00; Balance as of December 31, 2021 was \$5,346.09. The Money Market account balance was \$6,331.00; interest of .16¢ was added to the balance, making the final Money Market account balance \$6,331.16. Certificate of Deposit remains at \$4,000.

Balance as of January 1, 2022 was \$5,346.09; there was no income or expenses; Balance as of January 31, 2022 was \$5,346.09. The Money Market account balance was \$6,331.16; interest of .16¢ was added to the balance, making the final Money Market account balance \$6,331.32. Certificate of Deposit remains at \$4,000.

Balance as of February 1, 2022 was \$5,346.09; there was no income; Expenses were \$125.00; Balance as of February 28, 2022 was \$5,221.09. The Money Market account balance was \$6,331.32; interest of \$1.12 was added to the balance, making the final Money Market account balance \$6,332.47. Certificate of Deposit remains at \$4,000.

Tammy announced expense vouchers must be turned in by April 1st, because no checks will be written after that date.

Jr Past President/Disaster Fund Chair, Mona Johnston was unable to attend, but sent a report. Funds she has received to date was \$1,958. A list of donations per chapter are on each table.

Directory Chair, Jeanne Meyer made a motion that the cost of each Directory remain at \$8.00, with \$5.00 for postage, if mailed. Coming from a committee, no second was required. There was no discussion. A vote was taken; motion passed.

Petticoat Journal Editor, Brenda Yates recommended that the annual subscription rate for the 2022-2023 PJ remain at \$30, that includes estimated printing cost of \$4.00 per issue; estimated mailing cost of \$2.00 per issue for a total of \$6.00 per issue, times five issues, equals \$30. Coming from a committee, no second is required. There was no discussion. A vote was taken; motion carried.

State Project Director, Liz King reported that at the beginning of the year, she sent \$1,419.66 to OSB and \$1,765.50 to OSD. In December, she mailed \$2,175.00 to OSB and \$2,725.00 to OSD. The current balance in the State Project fund is \$949.35. Liz made a motion to use the remaining funds to purchase \$50.00 gift cards for the graduating seniors of both schools. Coming from a committee, no second is required. There was no discussion. A vote was taken; motion carried.

Liz thanked chapters that had sent her money. 22 chapters participated, which is more than any chapters participating before. Sandy reminded members, donations can still be sent to the State Project fund and to send all reports to Liz by April 1st.

Vice President, Linda Jones reported that she attended International Council Leadership in Denver, CO. She said she learned a lot about other chapters and the different way states conduct their business. She encouraged members to attend future IC meetings.

Easter Seals Chair, Jennifer Sparkman reported that any Easter Seals checks she received from members, have been mailed. She reminded Chairs that the deadline to have their reports postmarked was April 1st.

Awards Chair, Gwynn Nell Swanson was unable to attend the meeting, but left a report with President Sandy. Members were reminded that the contest “What ESA Means to Me,” deadline is April 1st. The contest has two different categories; “What ESA Means to Me,” for members less than one year and members longer than one year. Guidelines can be found on the OK ESA website. Members were also reminded to get their chapter’s awards lists to Gwynn Nell for service awards and Pallas Athene Degrees.

Association of the Arts Chair, Linda Leveridge explained she wanted her exhibit room to be filled with entries. The Division VIII (8) entry must be mailed to Linda by April 1st. This category is composition and consists of literature and/or music. Other entry forms must also be mailed to Linda by the deadline but can be brought to Convention. This year, there will be a Best in Show category for all entries.

Foundation Chair, Vivian Gibson reminded members to get officer and chapter information to IC. Vivian recognized Jennifer Sparkman and Dawn Haley as Co-Chairs with her for the ESA Foundation Auction. Funds raised from this auction will be divided between Easter Seals, St. Jude and the ESA Foundation. She suggested members or chapters bring some baskets to be auctioned off for \$25 - \$50. Bring items at noon on Friday of Convention.

Vivian also said she would like to have a separate line on the Service Report for local, ESA Foundation donations. The membership dues and other donations made to the Foundation, go directly to Headquarters and Vivian is sent a report of the donations. She wanted to keep the local Philanthropic totals separate.

DAA Chair, Faye Alexander was unable to attend the meeting. Linda Leveridge had her report and stated that the DAA books Faye had received would be judged next week and sent to the Awards Chair.

Outstanding Youth Chair, Lori Few was unable to attend the meeting. Margaret Kramer had her report and stated she had received several chapter entries and outside judges were lined up.

2022 Convention Co-Chair Ruth Jo Carnagey asked members if they would like to have a Hospitality room, with alcoholic beverages at Convention. Discussion was had and it was decided, there would be a Hospitality Room, with alcoholic beverages. Judi York said the Convention Committee would take care of the alcohol.

Ruth Jo introduced a Bingo game. Each attendee was given a blank "Bingo" card. There was a list of words. One would select a word and write it in a box on the "Bingo" card. After lunch, the words would be called and if you had a word in the square, you would mark it. This would continue until someone would bingo. This was to be homework during lunch.

Outstanding Chapter, June Miller requested help from Chapter Presidents, District Coordinators and State Council Officers and Chairs. She asked that they log onto the OK ESA website and look under the tab Contest Forms and if they are listed, then she needs reports by April 1st. She reminded members that her address had changed and was printed correctly in the Directory.

Shortly before noon, Sandy recessed for lunch. The meeting resumed at 1 p.m.

Today's first speaker was Jenny Crosby with C.A.S.A., which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA volunteers are "the eyes and ears" of children of the cases they advocate for, in court. This program began in 1977, Seattle Washington. A judge of that time saw multiple child welfare cases get lost in the red tape of the justice system. DHS case workers are bound by legislation. There was not a case-by-case decision. This judge and his wife decided to start a program for children. It soon grew to every state. CASA serves birth to 18-year-old children. They are victims of abuse or neglect, that is confirmed by the state, in court. The Foster Care and child welfare system is overburdened and though well intentioned cannot meet the needs of all children. CASA volunteers come from all walks of life and ages. They are court appointed advocates for children, that believe all children have a right to be treated with dignity and to thrive in safety. There is a strict interview process and training program. When training is complete, the volunteer receives orders from a judge, giving them access to all aspects of a child's life. They are assigned one case and work 8-12 hours a month. Their sole purpose is to gather all information, interview witnesses, professional and family and make the best decision for the child. A judge knows that when a

CASA worker brings a case to court, it has been thoroughly investigated and a remedy will be found. The goal is to have a safe and permanent home, for the child. Volunteers also provide consistency and support for the children. Volunteers are desperately needed.

Judi York reminded members of the Convention deadline. Registration needed to be in by March 31st; hotel reservation deadline is April 1st.

Ruth Jo began the BINGO game. There were multiple BINGOS.

Hope for Heroes Chair, Ramona Bench said she would give a list of places and things where people could make donations. April 9th, Kappa Theta, Guthrie is hosting a Hope for Heroes "Salute to Veterans and their families." It will be held at the American Legion Hall in Guthrie. There will be speakers. Veterans will be honored. Tickets are \$25 and this will include lunch.

Ramona introduced the final speaker of the day, Kim Vincent, a Naval Veteran from San Diego, California, that relocated to Guthrie, Oklahoma, where Kim's best friend lives. Kim met her husband on a ship in the 1980's. They were shipmates and served together. Kim was in for one year and then was discharged, so she could start their family. Her husband continued his military service for over twenty years. Kim had a heart for veterans and joined the American Legion, where she served veterans. She was recognized by the Blue Angels and was chosen to be a passenger and fly in a FA-18 fighter jet. She received multiple other recognitions for her service.

Educational Director, Ramona Means reminded members they should be gathering and compiling information for their chapter scrapbook to send in for judging by April 1st. The top three winners from each state will be sent to the IC Educational Director for judging. Ten chapters will be recognized at IC in Indianapolis, IN. Ramona will recognize one chapter Educational Director. They should submit a Gold Seal entry and be nominated by their chapter President. A brief description of accomplishments is due April 1st. Ramona wishes to find judges that are not ESA members. Judging will take place in April.

New Business:

Deb Hughes, Beta Gamma, Tulsa, nominated Margaret Kramer, Beta Iota McAlester to the office of Parliamentarian or the office of her choice on the International Council Board. Coming from a committee, no second was required. A vote was taken; all were in favor.

Linda Leveridge suggested we move the Outstanding Youth and DAA deadline to the March State Council Meeting. Postage is too expensive and there are delivery delays. A lengthy discussion was held, and it was decided to table and discuss next year.

Announcements:

MARC Representative, Deb Hughes announced that ESA Oklahoma would host the MARC Conference October 7-8, 2022 in Tulsa, OK.

Judi York, Oklahoma Walk/Run will be September 17th and Tulsa will be September 24th. She encouraged members to register on Team ESA OK.

Billye Putnam announced a new St. Jude Challenge, "Fifty Dollars for Fifty." They would like fifty or more \$50.00 donations to St. Jude, during 2022. This is ESA's 50th year to help St. Jude.

President Sandy provided a delicious ice cream bar, with all the trimmings. Members enjoyed the afternoon treat.

Rosalie Griffith wanted to remind chapters to let her know who will carry chapter flags.

Western District meeting and Installation is March 19th at the Goodrich United Methodist Church. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.; meeting begins at 11 a.m.

Judi York addressed the Executive Board for Linda's installation. She stated that she needed to know who Escorts and Marshall's would be.

Tulsa Area Council – BUNCO Bash will be held April 1st at Highland Park Christian Church. The cost will be \$25.00 per person and the meal will begin at 6 p.m. BUNCO will follow.

Door prizes and drawings were awarded.

The meeting was adjourned, with the Closing Ritual, at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

Darla Barton/Recording Secretary