

# Ascend

## President – Brenda Bowersox

Welcome to the third issue of Ascend, the President's newsletter for 2020-2021.

Christmas is upon us and I am sure that everyone is scurrying to get everything done. Most of my shopping has been online with a few strategic trips to the store for those little extras. Even in these strange times we still have our traditions to carry forward. My husband Jim is the family cookie maker. So even though we can't all get together, cookies can be left on various doorsteps with a special note.

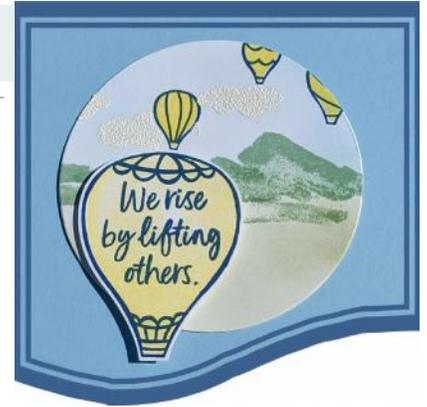
In this issue there is an article to highlight the special committee that I appointed to start the process of a guidelines booklet. We need your help to make this a reality so please lend them your support and expertise.

Thanks to everyone that was able to attend the ZOOM chat on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was nice to see your smiling faces and just chat about what is happening around the state. One chapter shared something that I found very exciting and there is an article with more information in this issue. Thanks Beta Sigma for sharing the 'Tech for Troops' project.

Would you like to have another ZOOM chat after the holidays? Send me a quick email to let me know.

Merry Christmas to you and your family, stay safe however you spend the festivities. Find a way to carry on those traditions.

*Hugs, BB*



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Lamplighter Deadline – Jan. 15
- Willing to Serve in a VSC Position Deadline – Feb. 15
- Let me know if you would like to have another Zoom Chat in the new year. Brenda Bowersox



## International Council Updates

During a recent State President's ZOOM meeting we were made aware of the following updates:

### IC Bylaw Changes

Earlier in the fall I forwarded you the proposed bylaw changes. After lots of questions and comments from the membership the committee has dropped all of those proposals and is starting from scratch. As of this month, there is one new proposal and it is concerning voting at IC convention. As was explained to us, individual members are members of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, chapters are members of the International Council, so only as a chapter can you vote at the IC level. State credentials will continue as previously with each state president carrying the votes of the state's chapters. **The proposed change is for that vote to become electronic instead of by paper ballot.** There are several apps or programs that can be used for this but none have been selected as yet. The electronic vote will take place at convention at a pre-selected time. The committee is accepting any additional proposed changes until Jan. 1. I will keep you posted on any new information as it comes to me.

**ESA Coffee Chats for December will only be on Monday, December 14.**

### President's Leadership

Leadership will be via ZOOM for 2021. The virtual event is scheduled for Feb. 25-27. Any member is welcome to attend and registration is open. All of the pertinent data may be found at this link:

<https://epsilonsigmaalpha.org/LeadershipFollowup>

Early bird registration ends on Jan. 1 and the cost is \$145.00. Final registration is \$165.00 and ends on Feb. 5.

IC Convention is still being planned for 2021. It will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, July 28 – August 1. If you would like to follow some of the preparations and keep up with all the happenings join this Facebook group: *Epsilon Sigma Alpha Annual IC Convention Group*.

74<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
Epsilon Sigma Alpha International  
Marriott Downtown  
Louisville, Kentucky  
July 28 - August 1, 2021

*"Talk Derby with ESA"*



## New Appointed Committee – Beverley Wright

### **VSC GUIDELINES... LET YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE PROVIDE DIRECTION**

Have you ever served in an elected or appointed position on the Virginia State Council and thought, “I wish I had some guidance on how to perform this job beyond the responsibilities outlined in the By-laws and Standing Rules!” Perhaps something came up during the year that led you to implement a practice that made your job easier but it wasn’t something that was passed along to the next person taking that position. If you have had any of these ‘AHA MOMENTS’, then do we have an opportunity for you!

During the VSC Executive Board retreat at SML in August 2020, President, Brenda Bowersox, proposed a committee be formed to START identifying and capturing these type practices in the form of a guide book or manual. Several members were identified to be Point People to capture any suggestions from chapter members in specific areas and try to answer any questions that may come up. It is NOT the purpose of this committee to change the By-laws/Standing Rules but to consider what is in these and capture any additional ideas, practices, suggestions which would make the position easier to understand and carry out the responsibilities.

Let me give you an example: As VSC Chaplain (many times), I finally realized there was a need to be able to capture the names of those Virginia sisters who had passed in several different time frames. For our state purposes, the timeline is May 1 – April 30; however, SERC wants the same information for the timeline of November 1 – October 31 and IC has a timeline of July 1 – June 30. By the time the SERC and IC Chaplain contacts the state, all the files have been turned over to the new VSC Chaplain and it is a struggle to try and go back and gather this information. As a ‘guideline’ for the VSC Chaplain, I would suggest keeping these other timelines in mind and creating a listing that can be turned over to the new VSC Chaplain.

Let me introduce your starting committee:

Marie LaDuke, Beta Sigma, will cover the Richmond area chapters and the Virginia Beach chapters

2201 Cardiff Ct., N. Chesterfield, VA 23236 [marieladuke@comcast.net](mailto:marieladuke@comcast.net)

Stephanie Hess, Zeta Nu, will cover the Roanoke/SML area chapters

414 Mallard Cove Rd., Moneta, VA 24121 [stephanie.s.hess@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.s.hess@gmail.com)

Jane Parish, Alpha Omega, will cover the Winchester and Front Royal chapters

308 Ridge Ave., Winchester, VA 22601 [jmparp@comcast.net](mailto:jmparp@comcast.net)

Katrina Saunders, Delta Sigma, will cover the Manassas and Woodbridge chapters

125 Jamestown Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630 [cookekc1964@gmail.com](mailto:cookekc1964@gmail.com)

Beverley Wright, Gamma Pi, will cover the Staunton and Waynesboro chapters and the VA E-Chapter

414 Yount Ave., Staunton, VA 24401 [bmwright@comcast.net](mailto:bmwright@comcast.net)

As you shelter-in-place after the holidays, think about your experiences in any of the elected or appointed positions and share any ideas you have that would make that job as easy and productive as possible. You can email or drop a note to your Point Person above and they will compile and forward to me to include in the guidebook.

The goal would be for this to be a 'living document' available through the VSC-ESA website and accessible to anyone who has a question.

Thank all of you in advance who care about ESA in Virginia and want to streamline and adapt to the changing environment in which we find ourselves.

Beverley M Wright

## Philanthropic – New Project – Marie LaDuke

Hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving and are enjoying getting ready for Christmas. I wish everyone and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year (and a better one).

A couple of months ago, my chapter donated lots of old electronics that were lying around our houses and that we wanted to get rid of. One day Susan Caldwell and I discovered a brochure in the realtor's office where we had our Dream Home Office at that time for a group called Tech For Troops. That realty company had donated to them before, and we decided to take their cause as one of our projects for this year. We collected several items (laptops, cell phones and cables to name a few) which were delivered to their location. We were very pleasantly surprised with the amount of monies we were credited. This project was mentioned to the Boards during a recent Zoom meeting and was received with great enthusiasm.

Tech For Troops is located in Richmond. It was started in 2013 by a son and mother with the purposes of training, education and technology for veterans and their families in need. They do hope to expand in the future. They are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

With the approval of the VSC Executive Board, I propose the following Philanthropic Project supporting our troops. Bring your used equipment to the March VSC meeting and I will get it to the donation site. If you mark all items with your chapter name, I will get a receipt for your donations and send it to your chapter with your credit. This is a great way to recycle your electronics keeping them out of the dump while helping a good cause.

We hope to have Mark Casper, Executive Director of Tech For Troops at the March meeting to tell you all about his mission.

Please visit their website at [techfortroops.org](http://techfortroops.org) for further information. It lists all items they will and will not accept.

I hope to have a car full of equipment to donate. Check your basements, closets, etc. to see what you have to donate. If you know any businesses that would like to participate in Tech For Troops, let them know about this organization.

## VSC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Diane McLane

*Hear Ye! Hear Ye!  
The VSC needs You!*

Volunteer to be on the Executive or General Board in 2021-2022. Think about what you'd like to do and let me know – or – wait for my call.

The Willing to Serve forms are attached. I'd love to hear from you. Via email, [DianeESAVa@gmail.com](mailto:DianeESAVa@gmail.com);

Phone 804-814-9699

## VSC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Mindy Boyd

Happy Holidays to everyone!! I am pleased to announce we have two new pledges in the state! both to **Beta Kappa in Virginia Beach**. Please help me welcome **Judy Halferty**, pledged by Deanna Renn. And **Rusty Udan**, pledged by Lou Ann Wyer. Even though October was membership month it's never too late to pledge a new member to your chapter.

I have email both Presidents in our Va. Tech and JMU collegiate chapters with no responses. I know Va. Tech has 51 members and JMU 67 with 9 new pledges. I will continue to reach out to them and should they need any advice, I will be sure to let everyone know. Please feel free to reach out to me should you need any assistance in Membership and I certainly hope we can convene in March safely.

## VSC Jr. Past President – Lou Ann Wyer

### Disaster Fund Raffle

Thanks to all who contributed to the Disaster Fund. We collected a total of \$490.00!! Maya Udan, Beta Kappa Elan, drew the winner of the raffle. She drew Tammy James' name from Beta Kappa! Tammy gets to choose an ESA apron or an ESA bag.

You can contribute to the Disaster Fund at any time. The Disaster Fund page has been updated on the IC website. Please visit this page to access the application for disaster funds.



## VSC Easterseals Co- Chairs Lynn Keffer & Susan Garland

Happy December! Today feels like a typical December day and arouses hopes that some sort of normalcy is around the corner. Susie and I would like to take advantage of Brenda's Newsletter to request we all keep Camp Easterseals Virginia on our minds and in our hearts through the holidays and that we throw some quarters in a jar towards a scholarship. These young people need something to look forward to probably more than most.

Take care, stay safe, virtual hugs to all, and to all a Good Night.

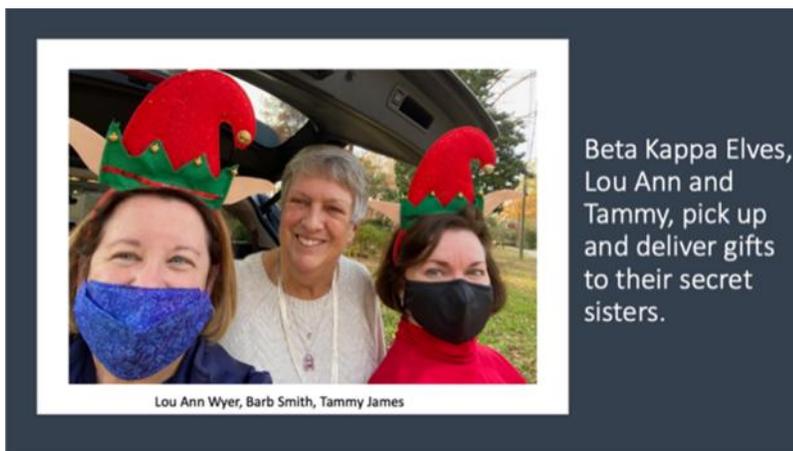


## Chapter Update – Beta Kappa, Virginia Beach – Ginny Hatchell, President

In support of Brenda's theme, Beta Kappa has chosen to **Be a Star in Someone's Dark Sky and Lift them to New Heights.**

Veterans in two nursing homes were lifted to new heights by receiving two separate groups of cards. Member Tess Dancause's students created and mailed cards to the Veterans, and our Chapter did the same. We know the Veterans felt the love this year.

Our group has recently come into contact with a homeless shelter for female veterans and we are looking forward to helping to support them both financially and emotionally. Currently housing 4 female veterans, but with room for 8, we are looking forward to this new adventure.



And lifting up others includes lifting up each other. Beta Kappa's annual Secret Pal Gift Exchange is scheduled for December. To ensure that every member's gifts arrived in time, Santa sent two elves to assist.

Beta Kappa keeps growing

WELCOME

Judy Halferty and Rusty Udan

## Story of the Heads – Suzanne Smith



I found a picture from the convention in 2003 when the heads were brand new and used as our centerpieces for the luncheon.

This is me and my sister-in-law, Kathie.

**CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE  
VIRGINIA STATE COUNCIL, ESA  
2021-2022**

Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Qualifications:**

Number of years in ESA \_\_\_\_\_ Month annual dues are paid \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in good standing with your chapter? Yes / No

Are you in good standing with IC? Yes / No

Is your chapter in good standing with the VSC? Yes / No

Is your chapter in good standing with IC? Yes / No

Chapter Offices held \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

District Offices held \_\_\_\_\_

State Council Offices held \_\_\_\_\_

SERC/IC Offices held \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Awards (ESA & non-ESA related) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Qualifications \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendance (Number of each attended)**

Leadership Conference \_\_\_\_\_ State Convention \_\_\_\_\_

SERC Conference \_\_\_\_\_ IC Convention \_\_\_\_\_

**Miscellaneous:**

Will you be attending the Spring VSC Meeting? Yes / No

**Submitted by:**

Candidates Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter President's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail or email to:  
Diane McLane  
11861 Wexwood DR  
North Chesterfield, VA 23236  
804-814-9699 (Cell)  
dianeESAva@gmail.com**

**Deadline February 15, 2021**

**WILLING TO SERVE  
GENERAL BOARD APPOINTED POSITIONS  
VIRGINIA STATE COUNCIL, ESA  
2021-2022**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in ESA \_\_\_\_\_ Month annual dues paid \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in good standing with your chapter? Yes / No

Are you in good standing with IC? Yes / No

Is your chapter in good standing with the VSC? Yes / No

Is your chapter in good standing with IC? Yes / No

I am interested in serving the Virginia State Council of ESA in the following capacity:

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to serve on a committee but prefer not to be a chairman. The committee I am interested in serving on is \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by:

Candidates Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter President's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or email to:  
Diane McLane  
11861 Wexwood DR  
North Chesterfield, VA 23236  
804-814-9699 (Cell)  
dianeESAv@gmail.com

**Deadline February 15, 2021**