



Arizona Council Bulletin

April 2025



Hello to all 🤝🤝,
Well, I do believe spring has sprung and summer is just around the corner and pushing its way through in some areas!!!

I want to thank Colleen and the Beta Gamma chapter for a great April Council meeting. The guest speaker from Child Crisis AZ was amazing and her message was so so alarming about the number of children in need of foster parents. Thank you so much for having her speak. I encourage any and all to help when and where you can to help with those children by giving a toy or new clothing to possibly give them a spark to show help is there and people care!!

A GREAT BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Omega Mu for their new members! You are an inspiration!!! Keep up the good works you are spreading and sharing our ESA story!! We are here for Education, Service, and of course Association!!! You guys are a hard act to follow!!!

I encourage all who are planning to coming to state convention in Henderson to call the Atwell Suites in Henderson and get your reservations in. The number is 1-833-428-9355 and ask for ESA room block. Room rate should be \$128.00 per night plus tax from Thursday May 29th through June 1, Sunday. Reservations for convention need to be mailed to Mike Walters with your list of members coming and if you have a guest, there is lunch and/or dinner price and their name needs to be on your list. If you have any problems please contact me! I will do my best to help....Eta Gamma chapter is excited to welcome all!!! Your assignments are to be thinking with all your chapter members on how and what we can do to increase our membership. As I have said we have to be willing to change, listen to the younger generation. If a suggestion is made try it. You don't know fit would work or fit. Give it a shot!!! What we did worked for us

Page	Table of Contents
3-4	Membership Chair
5	Foundation
6-9	St. Jude
9	Easterseals
10-11	IC Bylaw updates
12-13	AZ State Convention
14-16	Upcoming Council Meetings & Chapter news
17	Calendar

but the world is changing and we need to be willing do the same!! If they just want to volunteer, ok let them! They may not be comfortable asking for money!!! That is ok!

And then 2nd assignment is to come and just enjoy!!!

One last thing.... Mike and I are going to be Great Grandparents in September. It is a boy 🧒 and our daughter Stacy in Eta Gamma will be a grandmother !!!!! We are all excited!!!

It is time to say bye and hope to see many of u at end of May.

Hugs 🤗 to all from NV!!! My chauffeur says "hi"!!!
Deana

Colleen Luger from Beta Gamma presents Deana with these cute chicks that represent a donation in her name.

Rhonda with speaker from Child Crisis Arizona and donations of toys.



1st Vice President

In the March Bulletin, I posted Part 1 of the Bridge story. I'll reshare that before I share Part 2.

Part 1:

An old man crossed a deep chasm at twilight and turned to build a bridge behind him. When asked, "Why are you building a bridge over a chasm you have already crossed?" the old man replied, "There's a young man coming behind me who must cross the chasm and may not know the dangers; I built the bridge for him."

Part 2:

Every job, from a President to an appointed chairman, has pitfalls and obstacles, as well as stepping stones. Some of you have served in these capacities before – you've been down that path. This is a good time to remember the story of the old man, and like him, build a bridge so that those who follow behind you will have a safe and successful journey. Others should not have to find the danger spots or stepping stones that you found. They should not have to struggle when you could lend them a helping hand.

The moral of the story: we all can be, and should be, bridge builders for those who follow us in elected and appointed offices.

(Credit for the Bridge story goes to Fern Porter, who shared the story during her tenure as IC President)

I've asked each member of the Executive Board and Appointed Chairmen to submit a year-end report, sharing the highlights of the past year and steps taken, but also, perhaps, remembering those things you wish you knew going into that position. I'll look forward to receiving your year-end reports, anytime from now through State Convention. Electronic submission is preferred. Transfer of your position materials should also be completed by State Convention, except for the few positions that wind up their responsibilities right after State Convention. If

you aren't planning to attend State Convention, please arrange to get your materials to someone who is attending to facilitate a smooth transfer.

I was excited to introduce 8 first-time Council meeting attendees at the April Council meeting, 4 of which were new pledges (the 4 on the left in the photo). It was great to see a wide representation of ages among the group.



Florie Mielke, Alpha Omicron
Kristi Rhinhart, Alpha Chi
Jenny Blumfield, Alpha Chi
Ada Chislom, Omega Mu
Elijah Zeigler, Omega Mu
Warren Taylor, Omega Mu
Andrea Olivares, Omega Mu
JaQuary Brothers, Omega Mu

I'll have a sign-up form at State Convention for anyone attending IC Convention. If you won't be at Convention, but plan to attend IC, please reach out to me and let me know when you'll be arriving and if you'll be receiving recognition for years of service (and how many years).

At the Council meeting, our Parliamentarian, Patricia Gale, mentioned the need for chapters to notify me if you are not going to have a chapter member attend IC so that we can get your proxy for your IC voting preferences. IC Candidate profiles were published in the Journey Magazine and proposed IC Bylaw and Standing Rule changes were published in the Ocotillo Express. If we don't hear from you, your chapter vote(s) will be determined by the AZ Caucus vote at IC Convention. If you desire a proxy form, please let me know. If you are providing a proxy, please make note in your chapter minutes who is carrying your proxy.

We're mere weeks away from State Convention. Hope to see you there!

Terrie Rust
terrie_rust@hotmail.com





Greetings from the Foundation!

The Foundations Fantasy Fundraiser is now over and I hope all sent in just a smidgen to help support the Foundation. Since I am not able to be at the Council meeting I will be in touch with the winners of the competition when I return from Ohio. Many thanks to all that donated to this virtual fundraiser.

You may have noticed if you were donating using a credit card that you were directed to a new app, Zeffy. The Foundation is always looking for ways to offset costs and eliminating credit card processing fees was one goal. \$8,700 was spent in 2024 in processing fees, that money could certainly have been put to better use! Zeffy is an app that is strictly for nonprofit organizations and will eliminate credit card charges to the Foundation. Zeffy is able to do this by asking for contributions during the payment from the donators. **Please note that you are not required to do so and all you need to do is change the charge to Zeffy under your payment amount to zero.**

This app also allows the Foundation to ask questions, which helps the Foundation understand how to effectively manage events and get the appropriate data entered into the Member Suite. The Fantasy Event was used as a trial; ultimately, the Foundation wants to use it for all electronic payments including membership renewal. If you have any questions please reach out to either, Gordon Leong, Treasurer or Kim Mandrell, Chairperson.

Again, another huge THANK YOU shout out to Stephanie Potts for covering my duties this month at our April Council Meeting. I cannot thank her enough! I have been back and forth to Ohio most of February, March and now April helping my father with some medical issues.

As our year comes to a close, please do not forget to honor a special person by using the Pathway Program. Your recognition of a job well done or an extra thank you goes a long way. Various denominations are available. Go to <https://epsilonsigmaalpha.org/ESAFPathway> for more information.

Take care everyone and I will see you at Convention.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. 520-559-1944, krie77@cox.net Kathy Riebock, Arizona Foundation Counselor

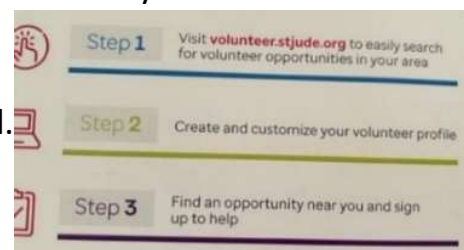
Dear Brothers and Sisters in ESA,



Happy Spring to all of our members and your families!

If you haven't done so, please create a profile in the St. Jude Volunteer Management System (VMS). Visit: [St Jude Volunteer Management System](https://volunteer.stjude.org) This will insure you can participate in any of the events throughout the year.

The three step process shown here will help get you started. Your hours and miles can easily be tracked using VMS!



Some important information is needed is later in this Bulletin. [2nd Request]

ST. JUDE CALENDAR of EVENTS

ST JUDE DREAM HOME – PHOENIX – 2025

First, Thank You to all of our ESA Members for attending all of the events at the St. Jude Dream Home this Spring. Special thanks to 3TV for selling all 10,000 Dream Home tickets in 28 Hours! The tickets have been “cured” in preparation of the drawing in early May. There are still Volunteer Opportunities for Greeters and Floaters at the Open Houses every weekend this month. **Please sign up today.** If a shift is full, please contact John Vitt to become an alternate.

Dream Home Updates

- **Sneak Peek:** April 3, 2025
- *** Open House Weekends:** April 5 – May 4, 2025
- **Giveaway:** May 7th, 2025

* Major Volunteer Opportunity to Greet Guests, Open/Close the Dream Home. Background check will be required.

Oasis of Hope – A Night in Vintage Vegas The Vault, Scottsdale

April 5, 2025

- This event was one to remember and in the theme of Las Vegas. The evening included cocktails, dinner, gaming, silent/live auctions and a live band all in support of the St. Jude mission.
- Sponsors and volunteers raised over **\$554,000!**



More Dream Home Facts:

- Open concept first floor, perfect for entertaining and cooking
- Light and bright interior selections with warm hues for a cozy feel
- Durable luxury vinyl planks on the first floor with chic and comfy carpet on the stairs/second floor
- Kitchen includes durable Quartz kitchen countertops with delicate veining, complimenting the handmade-looking backsplash, and Energy Star Bosch stainless-steel appliances
- Fun, decorative tile in the powder room and laundry room

To see the whole construction process and other videos, visit the 3TV video library at:

<https://www.azfamily.com/community/st-jude/>

The 10,000th St. Jude Dream Home Raffle Ticket is 'cured' by ESA Arizona Volunteers.



ST JUDE DREAM HOME – LAS VEGAS – 2025

You are reading that correct. The Ninth St. Jude Dream Home – Las Vegas broke ground February 18th. This Dream Home will be in Henderson, NV and Volunteer Opportunities are below.



St. Jude Dream Home - Las Vegas

Woodside Homes has again stepped up to build the 9th St. Jude Dream Home in Nevada. Located at **901 Cottonwood Hill Place, in Henderson** the Groundbreaking was completed February 18th. Construction should be completed mid-July.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- July 9th - Sell-a-Thon at Channel 3 Studios – Las Vegas
- July 16th - Tickets on Sale Prize Deadline
- July 24th - Sneak Peak
- July 26th - September 21st - Open House Weekends
- September 26th – Dream Home Giveaway



ST JUDE WALK – PHOENIX 2025 - Volunteers/Donors Needed! (Formerly the St. Jude Walk/Run)

* **OCTOBER 11, 2025.** Making memories. Supporting a mission. Come join the nationwide movement to honor Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and support those who need us most - the kids of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. **Team ESA-AZ** is once again ready to FUNdraise for this great event. More details will be in the Bulletin and Ocotillo Express in the coming weeks.

ST JUDE WALK – LAS VEGAS 2025

* **OCTOBER 18, 2025**

Same mission – Different setting.

Volunteers/Donors Needed!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY TO VOLUNTEER/ATTEND THESE GREAT EVENTS!
IMPORTANT ST. JUDE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ESA MEMBERS**

- Did you volunteer for a St. Jude Event through the Volunteer Management System (VMS)?

If you did, please be sure to return to VMS and report the time you worked and the mileage you traveled when the event is complete. Also, report these figures on your Philanthropic Report.

- Are you a St. Jude '*Partner in Hope*' contributing monthly to St. Jude?

Your St. Jude Senior Coordinator recently learned that ESA Members should be reporting this to ESA Headquarters. Here is what we will do to catch up on this important Philanthropic Report:

- 1) Make sure your Chapters Philanthropic Chair knows you are a St. Jude ***Partner in Hope***
- 2) Send John Vitt an e-mail with Your Full Name, Chapter Name/Number, and Monthly Contribution amount to St. Jude as a ***Partner in Hope***. John's e-mail: vittjc@aol.com. Deadline for the 2024-2025 Philanthropic Year is April 30th. Negative reports are also appreciated.

PHOTOS FROM THE VIP SNEAK PEAK OF THE ST. JUDE DREAM HOME - ARIZONA



PHOTOS FROM THE 2025 St. JUDE OASIS OF HOPE GALA



Easterseals- Terry Smith (Blake Foundation)/Kelly Kringen (SWHD)



It was great seeing everyone at the Council meeting in Phoenix

Please continue to save your pennies, coins etc. as we stand up to do the Hula and fill up our piggy bank for “Mola” for Maui. Bring your change to the next Council meeting.

Thanks again for your support.

Please feel free to contact Terry Smith or Kelly Kringen with any questions.

Dear members,

The following are a proposed bylaw and standing rule. These will be voting on at the IC Convention in July. If your chapter wishes to cast a vote but no one from your chapter will be attending IC Convention please reach out to Terri Rust upon casting your chapter's vote.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Patti Gale

Proposed Bylaw Addition:

Article XIX – Dissolution

Although the period of duration of the council is perpetual, if for any reason the council is to be dissolved or otherwise terminated, no part of the property of the council or any of the proceeds shall be distributed to the benefit of any of the officers or members of the councils. Upon the dissolution of the council, all assets, including the International Council Disaster Fund, shall be distributed by the executive board to international service projects.

Purpose: In the event of the dissolution of the International Council of Epsilon Sigma Alpha.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Webb

Omega Nu Chapter #5382

Proposed Addition to the IC Standing Rules #15

Currently Reads:

15. No campaigning and/or organized meeting shall be permitted prior to the International Convention by candidates for an International Council office.

Proposed Addition:

15. No campaigning and/or organized meeting shall be permitted prior to the International Convention by candidates for an International Council office.

A. Candidates will not distribute campaign materials/handouts to the membership.

B. Candidates are not permitted to campaign on social media.

C. There shall be no campaigning prior to the International Convention.

Mail-out campaigning will not be permitted.

D. Candidates and their state delegation may wear a “state” or “campaigning” costume at any time during the convention week. Costumes and any/all attachments must be limited to members of candidates’ state delegation only.

E. The only posters allowed will be those prepared by the International Council First Vice President/President Elect. These posters will have the candidate’s pictures, and their respective offices. These posters will be on display during the week of convention and will be removed following the election.

F. Candidates are invited to participate in the Candidate’s Skit at the time designated in the convention program. If a candidate is not in attendance at the convention or does not wish to participate in the Candidates’ Skit, a written notification should be provided to the First Vice President/President Elect.

G. No other campaign parties are allowed.

Reason for the addition:

To document the complete rules of campaigning that were otherwise not included in the Standing Rules.

Respectively presented by

Brenda Fields

2024-2025 International Council Parliamentarian

Epsilon Sigma Alpha

2025 Arizona State Convention

Tomorrow ... Together we can grow ESA

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Cost-

Members: \$135 per member, please send one check per chapter

Non-Member Banquet: \$60

Non-Member lunch: \$35

Dates: May 30th- June 1st

Registration deadline: **April 30**

Location: **Atwell Suites** 150 S. Water St. Henderson NV 89015

Please call: (833-428-9355 and mention ESA to **book your room reservations by April 30**

Yesterday

Today

Tomorrow

"Tomorrow, Together we can grow ESA"

Only non-members can purchase individual events. Saturday Luncheon is \$35.00, Saturday Night \$60.00 Please print clearly.

Please call or email Stacy Vitz smwalters2018@gmail.com phone is (702-743-0823) or Mike Walters at trkcrash@att.net tor phone is (702-374-5507) if you have any questions. **FREE** Breakfast is included.

13



Beta Gamma is collecting new and used sneakers

Bring to the future Arizona Council meetings

These shoes go to “GotSneakers?” a company that keep sneakers out of landfills. They give the new sneakers or used sneakers in good condition to secondhand markets and damaged footwear is recycled to reuse materials or to waste into new energy.

<https://gotsneakers.com/>

Beta Gamma gets a check after they send in the sneakers.

Wanted

- **any color, type or size**
- **for men, women and children**



**Contact any
Beta Gamma
member if you
have questions**



PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY DRIVE



Help the Alpha Chi chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha collect 800 sets of peanut butter and jelly* for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Sierra Vista, AZ.

From now until April 26th each set donated will earn you a raffle ticket for one of three amazing prizes!



For information and to make donations

contact Kathy Riebock

(520) 559-1944

(520) 378-9356

krie77@cox.net

***Note that St. Vincent de Paul
prefers 16-24oz plastic jars of
creamy peanut butter and grape jelly.**

Omega Alpha is Upping the Hope for Heroes Game in Arizona

It has been just one year since Omega Alpha Chapter of Phoenix, AZ, chartered, but the impact of these members has been felt throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. Chapter President and founding Omega Alpha member Paula Fisher shares the story of her chapter's support for Hope for Heroes:

A Vision Takes Shape

"The founding members of Omega Alpha were a diverse group of individuals, many with ties to military families, some veterans themselves, and others simply inspired by the resilience of those who had served in the armed forces. Our vision was clear: to support veterans and their families, particularly female veterans, who often faced unique challenges.

Toiletry Bags for Female Veterans

"Recognizing that many female veterans face barriers when transitioning back to civilian life, Omega Alpha began our first initiative: creating and distributing toiletry bags and feminine hygiene products. These bags were thoughtfully filled with essentials - shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and personal hygiene items - tailored to the specific needs of women. We partnered with the local Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital and Tempe-based nonprofit organization Women4Women to ensure the bags reached those who needed them most.



Omega Alpha partnered with other area ESA chapters to pack toiletry bags for Women4Women.

"Each bag also included a handwritten note of encouragement from an Omega Alpha member, reminding the recipients that their service and sacrifices were deeply valued.

"To date the chapter has donated 112 toiletry bags for female veterans at Phoenix

VA Healthcare System and engaged multiple Arizona ESA chapters to participate in Women4Women packing events.

Thanksgiving Baskets for Veteran Families

"As the holiday season approached, members partnered with Arizona ESA chapters and the Phoenix VA surgery department and turned their focus to Thanksgiving baskets for veteran families. Understanding that financial strain often prevents families from fully enjoying the holidays, we organized a drive to collect non-perishable foods, fresh produce, and turkeys.

"With the help of local businesses and community donations, Omega Alpha distributed dozens of baskets, ensuring that veteran families could gather around a table filled with food and gratitude.

Christmas Giving for Veterans and Their Children

"When December arrived, Omega Alpha launched their most ambitious initiative yet with Hope for Heroes chairs Pamela Wojtkun, Yolanda Chislon, and myself, Paula Fisher. We enhanced the holiday gift program, gathering wish lists from veterans and their children vested through partnerships with the VA social worker.

"One child asked for a simple teddy bear, while another wished for a new pair of shoes. A veteran mother requested art supplies for her daughter, and another veteran asked for warm blankets for his

family. The membership not only met these requests but also went above and beyond, wrapping each gift with care and including heartfelt letters of holiday cheer.



Pictured here is a small sample of all the gifts donated to veterans and their families by the chapter.

Building a Legacy of Service

"In just a short time, Omega Alpha became a beacon of hope and support for veterans in Phoenix. As this chapter grows, so will our impact. Together, we inspired other organizations to follow our lead, creating a ripple effect of compassion throughout the community. For the members of Omega Alpha, our journey was about more than service - it was about building a legacy of kindness, respect, and gratitude for those who had given so much."



A group of Omega Alpha members enjoyed lunch together - planning their next project, no doubt!

Date	Event & Location
Arizona Convention May 30-June 1, 2025 Arizona Council State Convention Hosted by Eta Gamma	Atwell Suites Henderson, NV Details in Ocotillo Express
IC Convention July 13-20, 2025 Cary, North Carolina	https://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/about/ic-council/convention

<http://www.facebook.com/ArizonaESA>

You do need to have your own Facebook page to view ours. If you are using Facebook, **Like** us so you will keep updated that is happening in ESA as well as the Arizona Council.

Here is the Arizona Council website **<http://azcouncilesa.com>** If you need a login and password please reach out to me.

Here are all the ways to reach me.

April Aguiñaga

april_aguinaga@hotmail.com 602-904-1530

15602 N. 59th Lane

Glendale, AZ 85306

