

Epsilon Sigma Alpha - Indiana State Council Spring Conference

March 14th, 2026

Roanoke American Legion

9A-9:45A Registration and Ways & Means Shopping and Breakfast

9:55A Five-minute warning

Call to Order by President Jennifer Morris at 10:02 AM.

Opening Ritual recited by all in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Thought Judy Flannery - Sometimes we make the process more complicated than we need to. We will never make a journey of a thousand miles by fretting how long it will take or how hard it will be. We make the journey by taking each day step by step and then repeating that again and again until we reach our destination. (Quote by Joseph B Wirthlin, Business leader, LDS)

Welcome and Introductions - Jennifer Morris, President.

PIPs in attendance: Jan Engel, Jaycee Peak, Kary Soto, Julia Aker, Cindy Norman, Diane Binkerd, Pam Grenard, Deon Cahill, BJ Voll, Denise Hagerty, Rozanne Robertson, Gloria Wilson

Jennifer reported that she is attending regular zoom calls with IC and other state presidents and Eta Pi got a shout out for sharing their golf outing knowledge. Jennifer presented them with the Extra Mile award and thanked them for representing Indiana.

Jennifer reports that there are two members from the Indiana membership running for IC offices – Brenda Campbell is running for 2nd VP and Lynn Howley is running for workshop coordinator. Neither were in attendance to stand and be recognized.

Jennifer told the membership that she will be leaving at lunch due to a schedule conflict with her senior daughter but that Pam Vogel will finish the meeting after she leaves. She encouraged anyone who has a question or needs to chat with her to find her before she leaves or message/email her.

Welcome and Instructions - Alpha Zeta Chapter. Alpha Zeta members have Hawaiian shirts and leis on – ask them if you need anything. Bathrooms are in the back. Pop is in the cooler, breakfast food and coffee is out and soup/salad for lunch with desserts.

Jennyfer Balkema, with Alpha Zeta, announced that if you have a sticker on the back of your printed program to come up for a door prize – there were three door prizes total.

Guest Speaker- Krista with Kate's Kart

Krista spoke passionately about the history of Kate's Kart; she and her family founded Kate's Kart after a personal experience while in the hospital. Krista's daughter was born with a heart issue and spent 180 days in the hospital. One of the things that they did to pass the time was read to her and look at books; there was not much else they could do to bond because there was a time that they could not even hold her. Her daughter did die at 18 months but they were blessed with money donated for the memorial and they wanted to give back and decided on books. The first Kate's Kart was at Lutheran Hospital 17 years ago; there are now 46 Karts in 25 Hospitals (15 Counties) in NE Indiana and Ohio. They continue to grow and will soon have Karts in Goshen, Logansport, and Kokomo. They are the only non-profit like this in the nation that serves different hospitals programs. They hand out 3500-5000 books a month. A family can get up to three books a week while they are in the hospital and the kids get to keep those books to build their home libraries. They surpassed 500,000 books last summer – she gave the membership the visual of Michigan's stadium, the largest, that seats 100,000 people and in each seat, there would be 5 books. A book is such an important distraction and way to stay connected!

They run the non-profit with three staff – Krista and two others and over 100 volunteers. They started in a storage unit but now have an office and building and 2 vans. They are funded by grants, community support, and individual donations as well as their big fundraiser. They do an annual ice cream social which is partnering with local ice cream shops all on the same day. The 2026 dates are June 27 and 28. The kids can also get books while at the Ice Cream social.

Kids up through age 18 can receive books through Kate's Kart. They get their books donated by individuals, companies, their amazon wish list, straight from the publisher as well. You can donate books or make a monetary donation that is used for books.

Krista shared that she was an ESA member in college at Ball State and that she is so excited to see a room full of ESA members. Krista thanked the membership for the book donations and pictures were taken. Alpha Zeta members helped Krista load her car.

Roll Call – Jennyfer Balkema, Recording Secretary

Officers Present at meeting: Jennifer Morris, Pam Vogel, Jaycee Peak, Jan Engel, Jennyfer Balkema, Jan Lantz, Brandy Small, Jenni Russ, Judy Flannery, Megan Gray, Maddie Kerr, Kary Soto, Aphrodite Hudson, Elaine Chaney, Mary Brewer

Officers Absent: Stacey Brummett, Makayla Greeson, Carmen Oswalt, Morgan Nichols, Courtney Ginder

There were 32 Members, 8 Presidents present to equal 40. Gamma Tau, Phi Alpha, Alpha Delta, and Beta Kappa chapters were not in attendance.

Chapter Name, City - Members present - President Present - Total Present

Chi Omicron, Avon – 7-1-8

Delta Sigma Evansville – 0-1-1

Eta Pi Fishers- 2-0-2

Alpha Zeta Fort Wayne – 4-1-5

Beta Chi Huntington – 3-0-3

Gamma Pi Indianapolis – 10-1-11

Lambda Mu Lafayette – 0-1-1

Epsilon Sigma North Manchester – 0-1-1

Alpha Xi Online – 1-0-1

Beta Phi Rockville – 1-1-2

Delta Delta Seymour – 3-0-3

Delta Zeta Terre Haute – 1-1-2

First Time Attendee and Pledges – Introduced by Pam, 1st VP

There were no first-time attendees or pledges. Pam asked for anyone to come up who has invited someone to join ESA or come to an ESA event. Each person who came forward was asked to talk briefly about their experience with that. BJ Voll was crowned the queen with the most people invited. She reports using wine and cheese to help her recruit and all because she was wearing an ESA shirt. BJ got to get her lunch food first today!

Pam reminds us to be like giraffes – to stick our necks out and just ask!

Budget and Financial report Jan Engel –

Jan Engel reported that as of 2/28/26, we have \$20,551.30 in the checking account, \$800 in savings and \$5000 in the CD which matures in July. Jan entertained any questions and got none.

Jan shared a micro learning lesson taken from the International ESA website under Education Center. She reported that there are many of these learning lessons there of various topics and encouraged the membership to check out the IC website and these learning lessons. Jan educated the membership about the difference between a 501c3 and 501c4 organization. ESA

Foundation is a 501c3, as well as St Jude and Easter Seals. Donations to these are tax deductible, they must issue tax receipts and their work must serve the public and not just their members.

501c4 Organizations/Civic clubs, like ESA are different in that donations to ESA chapters are not tax deductible, you may give an acknowledge of your donation letter but never say verbally or in writing that it is tax deductible. A simple acknowledgement wording would be "Epsilon Sigma Alpha International Council # ____ and Name ____ is a 501c4 non-profit entity. Thank you for your donation of _____."

It is important to never speak as an expert of tax deduction or other information and always tell them to consult their tax advisor.

Went over three check your understanding questions:

1. My chapter can issue tax receipts True or False – FALSE
2. Where should checks for charity fundraisers be made out to? TO THE CHARITY ITSELF
3. What should you say to a donor who asks if their donation is tax deductible – REFER THEM TO THEIR TAX ADVISOR.

Recording Secretary Report Jenn Balkema –

Jennyfer Balkema moved to dispense with the reading of the fall conference minutes as they were sent around to review and no corrections were needed. Gloria Wilson, PIP, seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jennyfer Balkema moved to accept the fall conference minutes as sent out to membership. Bridget Jones, Chi Omicron, seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed and meeting minutes approved.

Correspondence and Scrapbook Update Jenni Russ -

Jenni Russ, Corresponding secretary, shared that her March Article in the LAMP contained important information about how the list of Indiana members receiving state communications is cultivated and managed. She encouraged the membership to read her article and let her know if there are questions. Some of the membership in attendance expressed that they did not receive the LAMP. Jenni encouraged those who did not receive their LAMP to check their Spam folder and/or let Mary, the LAMP editor, know so she can check her list.

Jenni Russ, using a screen, computer and projector, demonstrated how to change your communication preferences (opt in/opt out) through the ESA website.

Jenni Russ reports that Jennifer Morris's sister, Anne Marie, will be preparing Jennifer's digital scrapbook this year. Jenni asked that members use the QR code on the program to upload any pictures taken today at conference. She encouraged members to do this while connected to strong Wi-Fi. There will be a new QR code for State convention that will be printed in the convention booklet.

Jenni reminded the membership that every chapter president was sent a link at the beginning of the year and that these will be resent so that the chapters can submit any pictures. Jenni reminded everyone to reach out to her if they would rather use an alternate method to submitting photos.

Webmaster Courtney Ginder –

Courtney reported to the membership that all the forms are updated on the website and the ones that are needed for state convention are also there.

Hope for Heroes/Disaster Fund Report Kary Soto –

Kary reported that she was unable to attend the Wreaths Across America event but asked if any other chapters participated. Kim, from Alpha Zeta and the ESA members in Jennings County participated and said that it was a good experience. Kary thanked them for attending and supporting Hope for Heroes.

Kary reported that Indiana has the most Disaster Fund donations so far this year totaling \$2541.48 and congratulated the membership.

Kary encouraged all chapters to vote for a member of the year and reminded everyone that the form is on the website.

Lamp Report Mary Brewer –

Mary reported that the March *Lamp* was published on March 10 to accommodate the expanded bylaw content. Please let her know if you did not receive your copy.

A tote containing bound editions of the *Lamp* was also recovered. More information will follow if a future budget expense is needed to bind subsequent editions. For reference, the *Lamp* has not been bound for at least the past ten years.

Mary said Thank you to the membership and board for contributing articles and updates. Your participation helps make the *Lamp* meaningful and reflective of our chapter.

Please note that the deadline for the final issue of this chapter year will arrive quickly—April 1. With the quick turnaround, please message me individually if you need additional time. I would love to see the final issue completed with an article from every officer and chapter.

Collegiate Report Maddie Kerr -

Maddie updated the membership that there is one potential Phi Alpha member. Historically, per some other Phi Alpha alums, when we tried to get involved, headquarters requested we step back a little bit. I am still happy to take names of anyone interested in joining Phi Alpha,

and names of alums who are interested in helping (including ways they would be willing to help). This role is transitioning into being the liaison between ESAMC and the collegiate chapter and this role may also be rolling into the membership chair's responsibility at some point. Please let Maddie know if you have any questions.

Membership Report Pam Vogel –

Pam is happy to report that for the first time in many years, there is one contested position for the upcoming state board. Here are the names of the candidates as they appeared in the most current issue of The Lamp:

1st Vice President – President Elect – Jaycee Peak, Chi Omicron

2nd Vice President – Jan Engel – Delta Delta

Treasurer – Jenni Russ, Gamma Pi

Recording Secretary – Brandy Small, Gamma Pi

Parliamentarian – Open (**no nominations**) – These nominations will be taken from the floor at State convention – Please let Pam know if you are interested in this position or have someone that you think would be great at it!

Educational Director:

Candidate 1 – Kary Soto, Alpha Xi

Candidate 2 – Jan Lantz, Gamma Pi

Appointed Board: Pam reports that there are still some appointed board positions open and to let her know if you are interested. She said that these will be finalized after the election.

Bids for Conventions & Conferences

Pam reports having received two (2) bids from chapters to host state meetings by the deadline of December 31, 2025:

- Fall Conference 2026 – Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Zionsville Community Center, to be hosted by Alpha Xi.
- State Convention – June 16-18, 2028 – Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport, to be hosted by Chi Omicron.
- There were no bids for Spring Conference – these will be taken from the floor at State Convention. Please let Pam know if you are interested.

Membership Update

As of January 9, 2026, the current membership stands at 152. Please note this number does not include members at large (MAL) as in previous report. This reflects a decrease of 70 members. Previous reports showed MALs at 63.

Philanthropic Report Jaycee Peak –

Jaycee updated the membership and let them know that the Camp Riley wish list has already been added to the website – these items will be collected at State Convention.

Jaycee talked about the Camp Riley shirt and all its details (color, price, sizes) and its deadline for the order, which is March 30th. You can pay by cash, check or Venmo and you must pay before you receive your shirt. The order form is at Jaycee's ways and means table today.

Jaycee, Heather, and Melissa are working on a date for Camp Riley Day (with a tour and project) for ESA; this will be communicated when it is known.

Jaycee talked about the state event on April 26th, 1:30-3:30pm, to make handmade cards – the cost is \$35 and ALL profits will go to the Camp Riley Amphitheater Renovations Project. The registration deadline is April 17th and location is Northview Christian Church in Danville.

Jaycee thanked her committee of Denise, Debbie, and BJ for working with her on the state project recommendation to be voted on at State Convention.

Jaycee let the membership know that the Life Enhancing gift program, the gift prior to the main gift from Anna's Celebration of Life, is back and to let her know if you or your chapter is interested in participating.

Jaycee presented Jennifer with a plaque as ESA was recognized as a Proud Sponsor of Helping Indiana kids thrive in 2025.

Jaycee shared upcoming events and encouraged members to volunteer or attend:

Anna's 18 Hole challenge – August 20, 2026 in Indianapolis and

Rock the Night for Special Needs- December 6th, 2026 in Indianapolis.

Jaycee closed with information about the new reporting system through the ESA website. By submitting hours directly to this portal, ESAMC can highlight members doing good things more consistently. The Indiana philanthropic chairs will receive an email from Jaycee next week and there is a video online that explains it all very well.

Some members asked about the Indiana report and Jaycee explained that for this year you can do either the google doc online or ESAMC's report. She reassured the membership that she will be able to access or get the information from ESAMC so that awards and numbers are calculated accurately.

Jaycee's last part of her report was a reminder that everything is due May 15th, 2026 and to turn in all your hours, miles, and donated goods.:)

Parliamentarian Report Jan Lantz –

Jan reported that the most recent LAMP had the proposed bylaws that will be getting voted on state convention. She encouraged the chapters to discuss these at their meetings so the delegates can vote accordingly. She reported that most of them are housekeeping or verbiage changes. Jan thanked her committee of DeOn, Cindy M. and Cindy N., for their hard work on the bylaws.

Jan encouraged the membership to consider stepping up and running for parliamentarian as she felt it was a good learning experience. Please let Jan know if you have any questions concerning bylaws or the parliamentarian position.

Lunch Blessing by Judy Flannery

LUNCH BREAK AND SHOPPING WAYS AND MEANS TABLES

Awards Report Elaine Chaney –

Elaine is presenting a new type of award to recognize individuals for various things they do in/for ESA – Celebration shout outs! There will be a bucket at state convention and you can submit them electronically. These can be fun or serious, big or small – she just wants to celebrate our members and the good things we do. These will highlight the following four topics – Kindness, Leadership, Service, Humor/Joy. She also reminded everyone to submit their What ESA means to me essays that are due May 15th!

Educational Report and Fun Game Brandy Small –

Reports : So far 5 chapters/educational directors have submitted educational reports! What a great start to the journey! The variety of topics has been fun to read. Brandy is looking forward to having more submissions and to learning more alongside you. These five chapters are in the running for awards.

Brandy led a word search game with the membership that involved trains and journeys.

Chaplain Report Judy Flannery –

Judy reminded the membership that all of the state convention forms are due by May 15th and they are available online. She said that she is changing up the flag ceremony some and that she plans to add engagements to the celebration of life ceremony.

Easter seals Report Megan Gray and Easter Seals Special Project Brandy Small –

Megan reminded the membership that Easter Seals donations are due by March 31st – she said to print out the form online and send the check to her. Gamma Pi presented a check from their Salsa event and dine to donate events.

Brandy reported that the remaining balance on the bench commitment is \$619.51 and there was \$739.41 raised today with the change wars. Megan will record the money raised from each chapter.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the bench is later this month. Brandy and Megan thanked the membership for their hard work on meeting this commitment early.

ESA Foundation Report Carmen Oswalt –

Carmen reported that she raised \$40 at Fall Conference with her trivia game and that it has been sent to the foundation. She said to reach out to her if anyone has any questions concerning the foundation.

Association of Arts Report Morgan Nichols -

Morgan reminded chapters to bring their train tracks to state convention. She said that if anyone has their tracks or cars today to give them to one of her chapter members. She clarified that the train will run in a clockwise direction. She also encouraged members to submit the train cars/tracks for association of the arts. She reminded the membership that the paperwork for association of the arts submissions is on the website and due May 15th.

MARC Report Stacey Brummertt & Makayla Greeson –

Stacey and Makayla report that MARC does not do fundraisers nor charge dues but they are looking for ways to raise money – the states have been asked to hold a fundraiser. They will send out more information via E-Blast when they know more. Stacey and Makayla reminded the membership to check out the MARC website and Facebook page as well!

ESA for St. Jude Report Aphrodite Hudson & Jenn Balkema

It was reported that there are currently no donations listed on the St Jude report; Aphrodite reminded chapters to submit their hours to the state using the usual system or the new reporting system on the ESA website. She talked about the VMS profile and it being the only way to sign up for ALSAC and St Jude events, as well as track your hours. Aphrodite handed out information about the VMS (Volunteer Management System). She reports not having an ALSAC update as she has not heard back from our rep.

Old Business:

Deon Cahill announced the 2026 State Convention Book Club Book – It is called the Insomniacs by Allison Winn Scotch. The book release date is 4/14 and the book club discussion will take place Saturday at State Convention.

New Business:

State Convention skit and information presented. Registration is available by mail or online and there will be lots of information in the 3/15 E-Blast. There is Full and Partial registration (Full is \$165). Dates are 6/12-6/14 at the Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis. Rooms are \$149 a night plus tax for two queen beds. Your hotel cost does not include breakfast and there is no breakfast provided by ESA Saturday morning. All rooms have a Keurig machine, refrigerator, and microwave.

Gamma Pi handed out a flyer outlining the themes for the different portions of the weekend and a registration form.

Gamma Pi also invited the membership to consider putting an ad in the convention booklet – there are a few sizes available from \$10-\$30. These ads can be for anything but campaigning.

Announcements:

Gamma Pi is having a purse bingo in April!

The Chi Omicron fashion show is on April 11th and proceeds benefit Anna's Celebration of life.

Eta Pi has easter eggs for sale – pre-stuffed and the proceeds benefit Easter Seals.

Eta Pi also has a Mystery dinner on April 18 in Fishers. Tickets are \$40 each.

IC Convention is July 15-19 in Norfolk Virginia hosted by Virginia

Raffles Drawn and winners announced.

Closing Thought Judy Flannery, Chaplain – Thanks and the Irish Blessing.

Closing Ritual Recited by all present

Meeting Adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennyfer Balkema, ISC Recording Secretary

Signature of ISC President, Jennifer Morris

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Morris", written over a horizontal line.