

December ESA News

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To: cmvasko@gmail.com

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ESA News

December, 2009

Digging Deeper - Hope for Heroes - [Jamie Atchison](#)

Thanks to you, the Hope for Heroes: An ESA National event November 7-14, 2009 was a huge success! There were so many unique and creative Epsilon Sigma Alpha events that transpired through our hearts and into those of our soldiers and veterans. Many chapters held joint public events throughout their communities with schools, Veterans' support groups, Military Readiness Groups, and other volunteer organizations. We participated in Veteran's Day parades, collected blankets for homeless veterans, gathered gift cards for Military Family Readiness Groups, and so much more. ESA made sure our heroes and their sacrifices are never forgotten. Hundreds of care packages, containing holiday decorations and personal care items were also sent to our soldiers to remind them of home and thank them for their service.

Chapters throughout the nation contributed to the success of this weeklong first time event. The passion and tenderness showed through our members' dedication and determination to support our American heroes was overwhelming. Thanks to each of you ESA shined all over the nation. Check out ESA's new [blog](#) the event photos and success stories. Also be sure to follow the blog for many ESA's exciting event updates!

Please remember our organization has so much to offer our military, their families, and to all those who helped us show our support during the Hope for Heroes: An ESA National Event. Be sure to contact them now, thank them again for their service and/or assistance, and ask them to be part of our ESA family. ESA changed our lives; let it continue changing the lives of others!

From Our International Council President - [Jamie Atchison](#)

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy

Things You Need to Know



- This is the year that our Bylaws and Standing Rules may be amended. According to Article XVIII and Standing Rule #30, "proposed amendments must be submitted to the IC Parliamentarian by January 1". If you have any questions, please contact IC Parliamentarian, [Vicky Jones](#)
- 2010 IC Convention in Bloomington, MN

July 11-18, 2010

"Playin' in the Land Of Lakes"

Sheraton Bloomington
Hotel South
Minneapolis

I challenged you to believe that Epsilon Sigma Alpha could make a huge impact by joining together and taking action one week in November to help our service men and women and their families...I asked, "can we do it?" You answered with an enthusiastic, "yes, we can!" and for that I thank you! Thank you to each and every one of you for organizing events with other community groups to help our troops, our veterans and their families. ESA members throughout our nation expressed their gratitude by organizing events and making a difference in the lives of service personnel and their families. The weeklong Hope for Heroes: An ESA National Event may be over, but, the love and enthusiasm for this event will continue for years to come!

\$119 Single/Double -
\$129 Triple - \$139
Quad

Full Registration -
\$210 (postmarked
before 4/30/10)

Many chapters also held very successful Give thanks. Walks. on November 21, 2009, what a great way to help the children of St. Jude and spread the good works of ESA throughout our communities. Also over 60 members were part of Team ESA and participated as St. Jude Heroes in the St. Jude Memphis Marathon held December 5, 2009, raising over \$21,000 and counting. Congratulations to all involved in these two successful events for the hospital. During these challenging economic times, children are still being diagnosed and going to St. Jude for treatment, please continue your efforts for St. Jude they are greatly appreciated!

As you pause this Holiday season and enjoy time with family and friends, I ask you to reflect on 2009 and give thanks for ESA and all the wonderful and amazing opportunities it has provided us to make a difference in the lives of others; we will probably never meet the majority of people we help by the dollars we raise or the time we donate, but yet they have touched our lives. I think that is a pretty remarkable feeling and for that I would like to thank you allowing me to be part of the greatest organization in the world!

From International Headquarters - [Janna Firestone](#),
Communications Director

ESA's New Blog

We have received fabulous stories of what members were doing for the Hope for Heroes: An ESA National Event, so we started a blog. We'll post stories, ideas, etc. we receive from members and chapters within Epsilon Sigma Alpha... Hope for Heroes, St. Jude, local community efforts, shining members, etc. Members and non-members alike can comment on the happenings within ESA.

You'll definitely be touched and inspired by what your fellow members are doing. Best yet... you always have the opportunity to share with other friends, co-workers, and family members the amazing stories of ESA... your ESA. [Submit ideas](#) and [follow](#) the blog

Give thanks. Walk.

At 40 locations across the country, the Give thanks Walks were a resounding success! Raising more than \$1.1 million dollars, participants from all walks of life joined together to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Thank you, ESA, for your continued dedication to raising money and awareness for St. Jude!

Membership Matters

Is an ESA Soiree' for YOU?

On November 6, 2010 preceding the opening of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha SERC conference in New Orleans, over 35 members joined in an hour-long "ESA Membership Soiree" with exciting results. Invitees were asked to "BYOB...bring your own Beverage, Buddies, and Best Ideas" on how to work together to network between regional states in the hope of recognizing connections and turning those connections into new chapters. Guests were asked to bring new chapter targets (cities, universities, regions of the state) where they would particularly like to develop new chapters and also to bring the names of friends in other SERC states.

Through the Soiree', Alabama was able to learn of potential new members in the same town with Alabama State President Sandy Weston and possibilities for a couple new chapters in places not currently represented. Florida has been using these ideas to grow their membership through both traditional chapter locations and collegiate targets as well.

Tracy Swanson, ESA HQ membership director, observed, "The best thing to come out of their soiree', is that members now recognize the value of connecting to find out what's going on. We encourage you to bring your maps and address books and go for it! The SERC hostesses have shared their format and how to information with us, and we'd be happy to send it to any ESA member who sees value in putting heads together to help ESA grow."

To investigate a soiree' for your chapter, state, or region, contact [Tracy Swanson](#) at ESA Headquarters.

[Rickie Brown](#), IC Membership-Senior Chair
[Sherry Day](#), IC Membership-Junior Chair
[Tracy Swanson](#), ESA Headquarters, Membership Director

Circle of Life - Barbara DuBois, Jr. Coordinator

What a wonderful time of the year. As busy as it is, Epsilon Sigma Alpha members always have time for St. Jude. Have you seen Marlo Thomas on television promoting the Thanks. and giving campaign? She has done many wonderful presentations.

I want to thank those of you who have submitted Completed Event forms to date. We have received over \$20,000 from the Give thanks. Walk., Mall and Zoo Events, etc.

Finally, Congratulations to Team ESA! There were over 60 members for the Memphis Marathon Weekend. Team ESA raised over \$21,000 for St. Jude and was among the top ten fundraising teams. Congratulations again to all who worked, ran, and walked in the races. And a special thank you to Donna Young for arranging the hospital tours.

Keep up the good work and enjoy the season!

St. Jude Patient of the Month

When Dylan's parents felt a lump on their 1-year-old son's abdomen, they knew something was not quite right. Heeding their parental intuition, they rushed their son to a local doctor, where an ultrasound showed the little boy had a deadly tumor on his kidney... [read more](#).

Editor's Note - [Carolyn Vasko](#), IC News Bulletin Chair

Generally the deadline for submitting articles for ESA News is the 25th of the month. However, since the next deadline (December 25) is Christmas Day and there are so many other events during this time, please enjoy a little extra time working on your January articles. I will send the News to Headquarters for distribution on January 4th, so please submit your articles by December 31.

I also want to wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season and a great start to 2010!

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FORWARD TO A FRIEND
