



INTERNATIONAL®

State Happenings for 2008-2009

State Convention in Topeka - April 24-27, 2008

"Fill Your Heart with Love & Laughter"
"Celebrate the Moment"

Members of ESA from across Kansas met in Topeka to celebrate a successful year. The theme of the convention and the intent of those in attendance were fulfilled to the fullest as fellowship and laughter were in abundance at the Holiday Inn in Topeka. Enjoy a few of the convention highlights and make your plans to come to convention next year for more fun! THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT FOLKS!

Kansas State Council Convention opened early with the first meeting theme *"Loving Life & ESA ...Everyday"*. Leadership workshops were held Friday afternoon after the Opening Flag Ceremony and First General assembly. The meeting theme was "Saluting ESA Leadership" The mayor of Topeka, Bill Bunten, welcomed ESA to Topeka. Workshops were given: **"How to be Organized Every Day"** by Christi Nowak, **"Step In, Step Up, Step Out - Developing your leadership style"** by Susan Winters; and **"Taking the Puzzle Out of leadership"** by Karen Knorp Brown. Dinners were held for Chapter President's, District Chairman, and the Lamplighters to prepare for the coming year. The rest of the convention attendees were on their own for the evening meal.



Everyone knows that Friday night at convention is always a time for fun since we hold our Mixer that evening. This convention pulled out the fun carpet and everyone took a ride. It started with a first of its kind - Tricycle Race in the hotel hall way!

St. Jude Fundraiser ... Trike Races ***"Race of Champions for the Kids of St. Jude"***



Maureen Wells, Sr. Circle of Life Coordinator and Brenda Love, Jr. Circle of Life Coordinator pulled out the stops for the kids at St. Jude with the first ever Trike Race to raise funds. ESA members never shy away from a challenge and a

CHALLENGE it was! When all the dust had settled this event brought in \$6000 for St. Jude.

The challengers gather in the hotel hallway to race their hearts out for the kids at St. Jude dressed in appropriate disguises. Everyone lined the track to root for their favorite. We regret to say that this didn't make speed a factor in the races!

The little Devil (Denise Masterson) will win the event with \$2500 in donations for St. Jude. All in all it kicked the convention off with a LOT of fun and laughter.

Friday Night Mixer *"Mixing It Up With Fun & Laughter"*

Donated baskets and a silent auction to support the efforts of the Kansas State Council lined the room Friday night of convention. The candidates for elective office make light of themselves as they dressed and did some lip singing to the theme of country



"HEEHAW". Minnie Pearl (Joy) introduces the famous and the infamous in the skit. It was a funny time filled with music and antics.



Gold Link Awards and the President's challenge were awarded and the Outstanding Sisters were introduced. The final event for the evening was the auction where members competed for their favorite basket and tried to outbid each other. It was a fun evening and good time was had by all!



Second General Assembly
"We Got By-laws" - Delegates sit to the right of the Chair - Alternates to the left
All in favor of the motion say "Ay"





It's time for the business of Kansas ESA, Candidate's speeches, and convention rules. Pat Upham and Elizabeth Tabor take their doorkeeping assignments seriously. Deann Tiede was the motivational speaker speaking on "*Strategies of becoming a Strategic Leader*". We were told to:

- BELIEVE in the mission
- SIEZE the opportunities to step up and lead
- BUILD RAPPORT with others
- GENERATE ideas!

The Circle of Life presentation was given by ALSAC Representative, Niki Leonard. She expressed her appreciation for the work of ESA and introduced the St. Jude family, Derek and Crystal Kistner.



There wasn't a dry eye in the room when these brave parents (Derek & Crystal



Kistner) spoke of the loss of their beautiful little girl, Bailey. By speaking about their journey to St. Jude and Bailey's valient struggle against her cancer, they believed that they honor her memory by continuing the fight. Bailey lost her battle

against childhood cancer at the age of five. Kansas is still counting and building but at convention time our donation total stood at \$154,885.74. Maureen said it was short of our goal but we still have some time to build these numbers. Send your donations to Maureen!



Celebration & Birthday Luncheon
"A Celebration of ESA Love & Service"
Happy 60th Birthday Heartspring & ESA

Awards of every shape and size were given at the Awards Luncheon. Barb Smith, Awards Chairman, was MC for the event and wore her "Cat in the Hat" hat to lead the celebrations. (right) Hardanger needlework by Charlene Hansen was one of the winners in the Association



of the Art along with many other entries. *(All awards are listed by going to the Kansas honors page on the website.)*

The Council has had a very long and rich history of support of Heartspring (formerly known as the Institute of Logopedics). This year we celebrate our 60th anniversary. The Kansas State Council has given over \$1 million in monetary gifts & Gifts in Kind in support of the children at Heartspring.



The Council always recognizes outstanding youth in the state. This year the Senior Outstanding youth (left) was Hannah Koops, Sponsored by Delta Delta, Ulysses. The Jr. Outstanding Youth was Jordon Kennedy, (right)



Sponsored by Beta Epsilon, Frankfort. The young women are shown here reading their winning essays.

Banquet & Installation of Officers
"Putting on the Ritz!"



Everyone put on their fancy dress to attend the Saturday night formal festivities. There were two installations: One for the newly elected officers of the Kansas State Council and one for the newly drafted Men of ESA. (One is solemn and formal, the other is a spoof and for chuckles) The Men of ESA are always good sports and seem to enjoy our fun at their expense.



Our newly elected president, Joy Thornbrugh, gives her acceptance speech. Karen Knorp-Brown, Pat Upham, and their table enjoy the evening. Instead of having a dance this year, Pam hired a standup comic so we laughed to the antics of Joe



Coronia. It was different and a lot of FUN. What an evening!

Sunday Brunch & Third General Assembly
"Free to be ... with Love and Laughter"



(left) Joe Corona entertained us with his humor. (Right) Pam calls the third and final assembly to order as we enjoy a brunch and more awards. Service awards for members and chapters gave recognition for over 900 years of service. Sunday tops off the most prestigious award: Outstanding Chapter for the year.



(L) Zeta Phi, Junction City took the top honors. (R) Resolutions was reintroduced by Pam this year and Eta Theta, Cheney brought the house down with their convention song.



Installation of officers at the 2008 Kansas State Convention. The women who will lead the Kansas State Council in 2008-2009.

(Left to right back row) Standing in for Crystal Collinsworth; Charmaign Nicholes, Bonnie Templeton, Pam McElvain, Clara Gin, Mary Vander Pol,

(Second row) Phyllis Simmons, Standing in for Marsha Barnes; Brenda Love, Pat Josey, Joy Thornbrugh, Kim Kummer, Cheryl Pucket, Jenene Radke.

(Front Row District Chairman not necessarily in order or pictured.)Sande White, Linda Bocox, Cyndie Ewy, Denise Masterson, Charlotte Grek, Donna Gilliland, Marla Olsen, Patsy Jenks, Teresa McVey, and Corinne Schur.

Convention 2009 - we go to back to Topeka - May 1-3 at the Ramada Inn