

“Chi Epsilon’s Seasons of Sisterhood & Service”

2011 - 2012

By Helen Stitt

Before we begin our new sorority year, we need to reflect back for just a few moments on the year we have just completed. Little did I know what the theme “Chi Epsilon...Speaking from the Heart” would come to mean to our chapter this year; with all our losses, our joys, our personal and family illnesses, injuries, and surgeries, our hearts truly did speak as we came together in support of one another. Our hearts spoke, and I am sure that they doubled in size. Our hearts will continue to be the firm foundation that our Chi Epsilon sisterhood is based upon in the coming year. I want to thank all of you for all of your love and support, and for the opportunity to serve you.

Our new state president, Marsha Barnes, has selected “The Seasons of ESA” as her theme. She explains the seasons, not as the four seasons, but as the seasons of womanhood. Gayle’s theme, “Chi Epsilon’s Seasons of Sisterhood & Service”, will be our guide for 2011- 2012.

When I think of seasons, the seasons that each one of us has experienced, I think of one of my favorite books, The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. The book is about a little boy and his relationship with his favorite tree, but for tonight we will substitute a little girl as the main character.

As the story begins, our little girl is enjoying and learning about all the wonderful things the world around her has to offer. This time in the little girl’s life makes me think of our Educational Director.

Terri - would you please come forward? If you will accept the office of Educational Director, please say “I will” (pause) and accept the Tree of Discovery. (instruct her where to stand)

Our little girl has grown into a young woman. It’s important for her to fit in, and to do things a certain way. This season reminds me of the office of Auditor, where everything has to “fit” and be a certain way as she checks over the financial records of Chi Epsilon.

Barb - would you please come forward? If you will accept the office of Auditor, please say “I will” (pause) and receive the Tree of Acceptance. (instruct her where to stand)

It is now time for our young woman to go out into the world, to make it on her own, and to be financially independent. This is the time in her life when her education and hard work begins to pay off. It’s important that she plans carefully and makes good decisions. The chapter Treasurer must also make good decisions and give good advice for the chapter to run smoothly.

Carol - would you please come forward? If you will accept the office of Treasurer, please say “I will” (pause) and accept the Tree of Responsibility. (instruct her where to stand)

Our main character has matured and has had many experiences. She has enjoyed these experiences, and wants others to participate in them with her. Our Vice President will have the wonderful challenge of inspiring others to join the sisterhood of Epsilon Sigma Alpha.

Barb - would you please come forward? If you will accept the office of Vice President, please say "I will" (pause) and accept the Tree of Opportunity. (instruct her where to stand)

We all reach that time in our life when we want to share our memories with others. We tell stories of days gone by with our family and friends. It's important to have a good record of these events "just in case", and I think you know what I mean!! Our Secretary will make sure of that!

Cyndie - would you please come forward? If you will accept the office of Secretary, please say "I will" (pause) and accept the Tree of Remembrance. (instruct her where to stand)

And now, it is the season of life's journey, and the lessons that have been learned. Gayle - will you please come forward? Your knowledge is now ready to be shared, either with a gentle nudge, an encouraging word, a calming strength, or when needed the quiet shoulder to lean upon.

Gayle - if you will accept the office of President of Chi Epsilon Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, please say "I will" (pause) and accept the Tree of Wisdom.

There were two main characters of our book. We have traced the steps of the little girl as we installed our officers for the coming year. She represented the sisterhood in our theme. Let us not forget the most important character of our book - the tree - the character who gave all he had to make sure that the girl was happy. He gave her his leaves, apples, branches, and eventually his entire trunk. All that was left of him was a stump, and yet he was still happy. To be of service, my sisters, is our most important goal. When we serve others, we know in our hearts that we have truly lived all "the seasons of ESA".

Congratulations to our newly installed officers of Chi Epsilon, and to make it official I will ask Gayle to lower my gavel, and I will raise hers.