

Midwest Area Regional Council News

December 2017

We want you....

to write an article for the next issue of reMARCS. Everyone is interested in what is going on in your state. Let us know how much fun you are having, share tips for fund raising and how you are communicating with your collegiate if you have them. Enquiring minds want to know!

The deadline for articles for the April issue is 1 March 2018. Please email your articles to Mary and Kim at remarcsesa@gmail.com.

We would love to hear from you! Let's get at least one article from each state in the next issue!

reMARCS



Your MARC President Celeste Webb

From your MARC President

Celeste Webb

I saw a quote on Pinterest that read “Thankful for being blessed with good friends and family”. This is how I feel after attending the MARC Conference in Dearborn Michigan. The Michigan State Council and Conference Co-Chairs Pat Ludwig and LeAnn Wray did a great job of providing members with a weekend of fun, friendship, educationals, food and some down time to sight see. I am thankful that I belong to such a great organization that offers

Upcoming Events

February 3, 2018
Thank You ESA Day
Tampa, FL

March 1-3, 2018
ESA Leadership
Holiday Inn Stapleton
Denver, CO

March 1, 2018
ReMARCS articles due

April 13-15, 2018
Missouri State
Convention
Blue Springs, MO

April 27-28, 2018
Minnesota State
Convention
Shoreview, MN

April 27-29, 2018
Oklahoma State
Convention
Tulsa, OK

May 3-6, 2018
Kansas State Convention
Wichita, KS

May 4-6, 2018
South Dakota State
Convention
Yankton, SD

May 4-6, 2018
Iowa State Convention
Davenport, IA

May 4-6, 2018
Wisconsin State
Convention
New Glarus, WI

May 18-20, 2018
Michigan State
Convention

me the opportunity to serve others, to meet new people and to gain the friendships of such amazing people. Thank you, Michigan ESA, for a great weekend!

In this morning's Journal Gazette, the local newspaper, there was a picture of those of us who had attended the MARC conference from my chapter, Omega Nu. In the article, the objectives of MARC were listed. They are:

- Promote closer relationships and fuller cooperation among the member states
- Assist member states in reaching new goals and new heights in the growth and strengthening of ESA in the Midwest
- Serve as a means of promoting fellowship and unity
- Offer a means of sharing mutual problems, concerns and goals
- Providing further educational and leadership training for ESA members in the Midwest.

I think we saw some of these objectives met while we were in Dearborn and we will continue to work on succeeding with the others. One way we are working on promoting closer relationships is a new "engagement" committee. Rhonda Rawlings, Rose Warner and Claudia Hatton have agreed to work together to find ways to engage MARC members in MARC. Why aren't members coming to the conference? What problems are states encountering? What can we do to help some states with their concerns, be they membership, scholarships or philanthropy? I'm sure we will see many new ideas!

I want to thank Mary Ann Johnson for doing such an outstanding job as the 2016- 2017 MARC chaplain. There were many days Mary Ann inspired me with her bible quotes, her compassion and her actions, thank you. I am pleased that Bonnie Templeton, another Kansas sister, will be taking over as chaplain. Bonnie has set up a g-mail account marcchaplain2017@gmail.com so you can reach her to share the good times and the bad. ESA has very strong prayer warriors!

Western States president Wanda Leyes has asked Carol Caldwell, the editor of the Western Way, to send me a copy of their newsletter. It was informative to read how different things are in our organization in other parts of the country. If anyone would like to receive the Western Way newsletter or submit an article please send to Carol Caldwell at the following: next newsletter deadline is January 30, 2018. Send the articles to Carol Caldwell, email address is crccarol8@gmail.com

I'll close with saying thank you for the opportunity to serve as MARC president. Have a blessed holiday and #staystrong

Celeste

Sterling Heights, MI

Upcoming Events (cont.)

Date TBD

Ohio State Convention
Cincinnati, OH

June 1-3, 2018

Nebraska State
Convention
Grand Island, NE

June 8-10, 2018

Illinois State Convention
Effingham, IL

June 8-10, 2018

Indiana State Convention
French Lick, IN

July 1, 2018

ReMARCS article due

July 18-22, 2018

ESA International
Conference, Phoenix,
Arizona

From your Vice President

Debbie Vercellono

We had our first snow in Lincoln, Nebraska on Halloween. The snowflakes were big and beautiful and melted as they hit the ground. Unfortunately, it was so cold; we did not have many trick or treaters. Nothing could stop my grandkids (ages 9 & 7) from collecting their candy. They were willing to brave the snow and cold weather and came home with a bucket full of candy. It would be nice if all of our future snowfalls would just melt away and not leave a mess.

I want to thank Pat Ludwig and LeAnn Wray for the wonderful 2017 MARC conference. All of the ladies from Michigan worked hard to make it a success. The installation ceremony was beautiful and one I won't forget. It definitely created a memory for me. Celeste looked stunning and her officers looked pretty good as well. It had been a long time since I played dress up and it felt pretty good.

Now we get busy with Thanksgiving and Christmas. My sister, sister-in-law and I are getting together this weekend to plan Thanksgiving for all of my aunts, uncles and cousins on my Dad's side of the family. There will be approximately 75 adults and children attending. Wish us luck!!!. This is our annual get together and I love to see the extended members of my family that I only get to see once a year. It kind of reminds me of our MARC conferences. There is always food, fun and the excitement of seeing the friends that I have made over the years.

I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to an exciting 2018 and all the interesting things we will accomplish in MARC.

Debbie



From your Secretary

Linda Schmidt

Happy Holidays!! This is my favorite time of the year! I love the fall leaves, the cooler weather, Thanksgiving and Christmas with my family. I could go on and on...

I was thrilled to be elected as your Recording Secretary. You may not hear from me much this year as I will be busy taking notes and transcribing the MARC minutes, but please don't let that stop you from reaching out to me with your comments, concerns, or ideas. Like I said during my candidate speech - effective communication is the most important thing for MARC to succeed. That is both listening and speaking, so if you need me to listen I am here for you!

Enjoy these next few months with your family and friends, and I wish you all the happiness and success in 2018!

September 15, 2018
Tax Facts due to IC
Headquarters

From your Treasurer

Brenda Fields

With the year just starting, I don't have much to report as Treasurer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Michigan members for a FABULOUS Conference. A special thanks to Pat Ludwig and Leann Wray...it was FUN!

It is great to see all of the people that I have met that I now call my friends. Charles Dickens once said "There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate." And our friends in Michigan came with chocolate (Bon, Bon, Bon)!!

As we approach the Holidays...ENJOY!

Best to all,
Brenda

From your Parliamentarian

Denise Hagerty

I am very excited to be given the privilege of serving our MARC States this year as your Parliamentarian.

The faith you have bestowed on me is an honor. I look forward to working with such a wonderful group of officers this coming year. Here are a few details about me. I am a 42-year member of ESA. I have worked at the same company for 38 years.

I have been married for 36 years to my husband Frank. We have 4 children and 7 (will be 8 when you read this) truly wonderful grandchildren who enrich our lives every day.

Being of service to others is a rewarding aspect of life, whether it be family, friends or those less fortunate. ESA has truly been an important part of my life. Through it I have many friends all over the USA and plenty of service opportunities to keep me busy and feeling good.

God Bless you all with a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Denise



No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

- Aesop

WHAT'S HAPPENING FROM STATE TO STATE

Indiana

Peggy Zimmer

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!

MARC Conference - ESA Foundation Dance Marathon update, (Drum Roll, Please) New total: \$1870.00. Our Dancing Queens were Bonnie Templeton and Linda Schmidt from Kansas. THANK YOU!!! LADIES! A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO JOSH from MICHIGAN for setting the music up for me. Thanks to all the participants and all the ESA members present for "Putting Your Money" in the BAG!

Thank you, Angie for allowing me to be your MARC ESA Foundation Counselor for 2016-17. It was a great time in the Motown in Motion. Thank you, Michigan ESA Members.

Peggy

Iowa

Sandi Anderson and Mariann Hayes, MARC Reps

Thank you to the busy bees whose vision and hard work presented a successful 2017 IC Convention in name of the Midwest Area Conference. A great time was had by all.

This is the second year for our Iowa Officers since we have started with the 2-year term offices, our spring convention was minimal and enjoyable for all.

The chapters in the state have been busy with their fund-raising events, cowboy shoots, vendor fairs, and bazaars. We had fun working a concession stand for 2 days at a small-town festival, worked at the Pizza Ranch and are planning our events for 2018.

Four Iowa members attended the Marc Conference in Michigan and had a great time meeting new friends and visiting with old. Thanks to Michigan for a great weekend.

Blessings and Joy to all for the upcoming Holiday season and joyous 2018.



Michigan

Baylee Pfiester and Patty Wieber, MARC Reps

My, my, my. What a wonderful time we had seeing “Motown in Motion” as we spent our weekend in Dearborn, MI for yet another fun filled, fabulous MARC! There was dancing, laughter, and smiles a plenty; is there anything else to be expected when the members of ESA get together? Us Michigan MARC reps arrived Thursday night at the Doubletree in Dearborn. We were greeted with big hugs & smiles and knew we were in store for an enjoyable conference!

As we kicked off Friday morning, I personally could not wait to hear what our keynote speakers had to say. Three inspirational women entrepreneurs from Michigan had our attention from 8:30am all the way to noon. You heard me right! Women, entrepreneurs, and MICHIGAN! 3 lovely words to put in the same sentence. Time flew and I only wish there was a few more hours in the day as I was so captivated by their stories, the heart that radiated from them, and the passion for what they do. These wonderful ladies were Maggie Varney, Alexis Clark, and Yvette Jenkins.



Maggie is the founder and CEO of Wigs 4 Kids, a nonprofit organization that provides custom made wigs for children affected by diseases such as a cancer, alopecia, trichotillomania, and more. Not only does Wigs 4 Kids provide wigs for children’s small (and constantly growing) heads, but also provides therapy for them, their family, nutritional education, and a place to go where there is a sense of belonging, acceptance, and constant support during an incredibly difficult time. The most amazing thing is, Wigs 4 Kids provides all of their services at no cost!

Alex Clark is the owner of Bon Bon Bon of Hamtramck & Detroit, creating stunning bons out of sustainably and ethically sourced cacao. various degrees and travelling the world, learning under excellent and wise chocolatiers, and having a mission in mind day in and day out, Alex put all of this into creating the best bons, with the best packaging, and with the best sources- meaning no child labor involved in the cacao farming process. Alex never took no for an answer, and thanks to that perseverance and “what on earth am I doing?” moments, Alex took her “bon bon bon” and ran with it all the way to Forbes 30 under 30 list.

Yvette Jenkins is the owner of “Love Travels. Imports.” of Detroit. Yvette loves to travel, and also loves the unique, handmade items she finds when she travels. When she was downsized from her 6-figure corporate job, Yvette thought of what she could do that fill her soul and what she was passionate about. Yvette loves travel, exploration, and artisan products from around the world that help support

women and families through their trade. She reminisced on the words of her grandmother “nothing beats a failure but a try, so try”, so that is exactly what she did. She opened up her shop in Detroit and showcases beautiful handmade products from around the world.

All 3 of these women left their mark on each of us in their audience. It is always amazing to hear of someone else’s phenomenal journey in life and what inspires them.

Friday afternoon we all had the chance to get out and explore Detroit- the history, the sites, nostalgia, and good the city has to offer. However, some of us... were preparing to get down on the dance floor! Friday night’s mixer, “Dancing in the Streets” was an absolute riot! The dance contest to raise funds for the ESA Foundation was SO much fun. There were costumes, props, and some pretty good moves... but I must say... Michigan had the best moves and props that you ever did see! Team Bad Nana Jama and the Hot Mess Ladies were a crowd favorite, though we tipped our glittery top hats to Kansas who gathered the most money to contribute to the ESA foundation. Everyone did excellent, and the smiles never stopped- even after our photo was taken at the picture booth!

After some well needed rest to recover from Friday night, Saturday’s meeting was business as expected, but the Chaplain Service by MaryAnn Johnson was incredibly powerful and memorable, and all of MARC had such a wonderful surprise when the DoubleTree donated \$1,500 in ESA’s name to St. Jude. Ashley Ramsdell, ALSAC Representative, presented on St. Jude and we were able to see how our work for St. Jude truly makes a difference in the lives of children and what we can do to keep contributing. All of these events on Saturday were truly touching...

In closing, the banquet was lovely. As we thanked Angie for another wonderful year of MARC, we welcomed Celeste and her elected MARC board in and look forward to a prosperous year ahead. As a first time MARC attendee, I absolutely fell in love with this time of fellowship, education, and FUN! I left Sunday truly inspired to give more of myself to Epsilon Sigma Alpha, my community, and organizations. Do more, give more, and be more... be all that you can in the one life we have here.

Thank you to LeAnn & Pat for making this such a great, memorable experience! They did an outstanding job in the planning and execution of this conference; very well done!

Though it is bittersweet to part ways, we must return home to keep doing our good works with our chapters... I hope to see everyone at “Party on the Plains” for MARC conference next year in Sioux Falls, SD from October 12-14, 2018!



Angie Butenscheon- Past President, Denise Hagerty- Parliamentarian, Linda Schmidt - Recording Secretary, Celeste Webb - President, Debbie Vercellono -Vice President, Brenda Fields - Treasurer, Mary Houglund and Kim Poling -Co-Communicators

Ohio

Beth Laage, MARC Rep

Greetings to all our MARC sisters!

It was so good to see everyone at the MARC conference in Detroit. Ohio had 9 members attend and a great time was had by all! I have yet to attend a MARC conference where I didn't thoroughly enjoy the speakers, reconnecting with old friends, and meeting new ones. Angie Butenschoen and her MARC council did a wonderful job this past year, and I know Celeste will follow in her footsteps!! Congrats to all our new MARC board!!

Just a little news from Ohio!!

Joan Farabee from Delta Chi did an outstanding job as our Ohio State president last year! With her warm and welcoming personality, friendly smile, strong faith, and enthusiasm for ESA, she did a wonderful job embracing everyone who crossed her path. She is a true leader and encouraged us all to "Catch our Dreams."

Our "new" Ohio state president for this year is our own Judi King, who has served as state president at least 100 times. (or so she says!) Joan is a hard act to follow, but Judi will have no problems, as she too is a woman of faith who embraces everyone she knows. Her love and dedication for ESA has encouraged us all to "Amaze Ourselves" as we look forward to the year ahead.

Our new Vice president, from PiXi, is Amanda Rowland. Amanda has challenged all of her Ohio sisters to bring back some of the old traditions that seem to have been forgotten or lost over the years. Some of those traditions, like the secret handshake, making sure all new members remember the significance of the pins and what they mean, our opening and closing rituals, and our pinning ceremonies are all part of the traditions of ESA. She would like to make sure we stay strong in continuing with those traditions and others, as well as remembering where ESA all started.

Our new "social media" person, Becca Lloyd, from Beta Psi, has been encouraging everyone to become familiar with social media for getting the word out about upcoming events. She has offered to help anyone who might be in need, to show us how to post our events, send out invitations, and follow other chapters around the country. She has challenged us all to get active on social media! I have to admit, for some of us old fashioned girls, it's kind of hard, but we are trying....and I know we'll eventually get there!!! We just need some help!!

Tammy Reynolds, also from Beta Psi, is our Special Projects coordinator for Ohio this year. For September, she had arranged for us to help with an organization called Playful Paws. We were asked to bring in donations of things like cat/dog food, kitty litter, scoops, and other items to donate. She also did a work shop at our state meeting to make dog and cat toys to donate to Paws. At our March meeting we will be donating books to Children's Hospital. In May, we will be making donations to food pantries as individual chapters, and making Police Appreciation bags to hand out to our local police departments.

Our Ohio chapters have been getting back into the swing of things now that summer has ended.

Thanks again to Beta Psi members, Brenda Meyers and Judi Grefer for doing an outstanding job as registration chair for IC. You both did a fabulous job and made Ohio proud. Thanks again for all your hard work!

Delta Gamma may be small, but we are mighty". Shirley, that is sooooo true! It absolutely amazes me that the smallest chapter in Ohio received the Outstanding Achievement award for: The ESA for ST. Jude Award, Largest Individual Event, and Second Place among several other awards for Ohio.

Shirley Krcmar has also recruited 2 new members in her chapter. They now have 4 members!!! Congrats Shirley!!!!

Gamma Kappa hosted their Annual Autumn Blessings for Easter Seals high tea at the Gazebo Tea Garden. It was a wonderful afternoon reconnecting with other Ohio chapters, hearing about the great work that Easter Seals does, and raising money at the same time!!

Member Amy Hudoba lost her beloved dog, "Sparkey" this past summer. Sparkey was a Distinguished Therapy Dog. He and Amy have been making a difference in hundreds of lives throughout the Cincinnati area visiting various hospitals for the last 13 years. May her precious Sparkey rest in peace!!

Sigma Chi hosted their annual "Shop for St. Jude" fundraiser on Saturday October 28th. All were invited to shop at Heritage Presbyterian Church with over 20 vendors, basket raffles, door prizes and plenty of refreshments. Thanks Sigma Chi.... I got a great start on my Christmas Shopping!!!

Pi Xi is Ohio's newest Chapter! They have jumped in with 2 feet doing fundraisers for St. Jude at the Columbus zoo, hosting a Quarter Auction to benefit the St. Jude walk/run in Columbus, holding a bake sale and a St. Jude day at a local winery.

Great job ladies!! You are making Ohio very proud!!!

Delta Chi is planning several more of our "Hope after Heroin" events in the months ahead. Our first Event was held in May, and we were all deeply moved in hearing what some of our local families have had to deal with involving loved ones who had fallen into addiction. We continue to ask for prayers for all families dealing with this wide spread problem.

Again, it was great seeing all our MARC sisters in Detroit!! God's Blessings to you all as we enter into the Christmas Season and prepare for the Birth of Christ!!!

Love, Hugs, and God Bless to all!!
Beth Laage
Delta Chi-Cincinnati, Ohio

South Dakota

Kim Bervan, MARC Rep

Greetings from South Dakota! We are working with the wonderful MARC board on a budget that will soon lower the cost of registration to make it possible for each and every one of you to come. We are so excited and can't wait to welcome you all to Sioux Falls to PARTY ON THE PLAINS with us!

We have so many wonderful speakers and educationals planned for your weekend with us. One of them is my cousin, Teresa Huntimer, her life is an inspiration to me and so many others. I realize as I am writing this that I have never told her that. She is a giver and a fighter having survived cancer three times including colon cancer, leukemia and now recently breast cancer. She said today that her mom told her "only the good die young" well that's not true. I'd say God has kept her going because she is a servant!



Teresa is currently 2nd Vice President of the Department of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary. Her countless hours of dedication to veterans is remarkable. She volunteers at the Sioux Falls Veterans Hospital 1 or 2 days a week helping with check ins, pouring coffee, directing patients and guests, and simply visiting with veterans and making their days better. Locally in Dell Rapids, where she lives with and cares for her aging uncle, she is responsible for putting together the monthly free supper for veterans and their families at the Legion Hall.

She had the privilege of attending Honor Flight with her dad, and then was asked and she was honored to go two more

times to be a guardian for veterans so that they could have the experience as well.

We had a MARC Committee meeting a while back and someone said "we should find an activity to get everyone involved that would benefit the community." So, I told them about Teresa and that she needs Plarn! Once hearing about it everyone was immediately on board for a Plarn Party!

Now let me tell you now about Plarn! PLastic yARN! Some of you may have seen rugs made out of plastic grocery bags in the 70's. Well that's what Teresa needs help with, not small rugs, but sleeping mats for the homeless. I think we all experience cold damp weather in the Midwest. So, take a moment to



imagine if you had to sleep on the cold damp ground night after night... Teresa has a solution. It takes her 700 grocery bags and 50 hours to make 1 sleeping mat for a homeless person. She tells me she has made 20 of them so far, and she donates them to the local VA hospital for their homeless veteran's program. Now imagine if 150 of us spent just a short time folding, cutting and rolling plastic into yarn how many homeless veterans we can help sleep on something dry and a comfortable. We have some fun planned during this activity as well, but you'll just have to make sure you show up to find out what that is. I can't wait for you all to meet Teresa! We got together with her and had a blast making plarn, and yes you crocheters out there - bring your big crochet hooks if you'd like.

Get your calendars marked -

October 12-14, 2018
Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
Hilton Garden Inn Downtown

Room rates are: \$139 King, \$144 Double

We will be sharing more information soon about Party On The Plains!

Sincerely,
Kim Berven
MARC 2018 Committee

Wisconsin

Val Priebe, State President

Wisconsin sincerely thanks LeAnn Wray, Pat Ludwig, and the entire Michigan ESA for the wonderful Conference they hosted. The four of us that attended had a great time. Congratulations to Celeste Webb, 2017-2018 MARC President, and her new Board. **It's** awesome to see so many new faces, both on the Board and attending the annual Conference.

Wisconsin is trying some new things this year. The Leadership and Business Meetings were combined. We have a small attendance and so were able to meet at Yvonne **King's Condo Complex's** social building. It was cozy, friendly, and perfect for socializing and the Potluck Luncheon.

Jeanne Williamson, Education/Leadership Chair, introduced Margaret Jankowski, The Sewing Machine Project Founder and Director. The Sewing Machine Project collects and distributes sewing machines to groups committed to using the machines to provide opportunities to create, learn new skills, build confidence and contribute to their own livelihoods.

She has made 17 trips to New Orleans after Katrina. The Sewing Machine Project has given over 1,000 machines there and over 2,500 in total. Currently, the Project is working to gather machines for Houston. She teaches those receiving machines how to use them. After training them, they are asked to **"Pay It Forward"** in their community.

In Madison, Wisconsin, the home of the Project, she and volunteers have set up several Mending Programs in the Public Library, Community Centers, etc. to provide for the homeless population. Go to their Website for more information: TheSewingMachineProject.org

Jeanne also led a hands-on session of Mental Acuity Exercises. The afternoon Business Meeting was accomplished in 2 hours. The State Council membership certainly did their homework to be able to enact the two-year Budget, Bylaw changes, and other usual business.

We hope your Holidays are Happy, the weather is not too bad, and your Projects are successful.

P.S. The Beta Omicron Chapter sold almost 450 Beverage Teaspoons at the Conference Marketplace. Thanks to all!!!!