FEBRUARY 2016

**Happy Valentine’s Day:** I have just returned from ESA Leadership in Denver, Colorado and say “thank you” for the wonderful opportunity to enjoy this annual event. It was fabulous and all came away energized to move ESA forward. One of the things I enjoy most about Leadership is bonding with other ESA members and this year I wanted to bond with the incoming state presidents from the Southeastern Region. My roommate was Nancy Cameron, Rocky Mountain Regional President from Denver, Colorado. What a lovely person to add to my list of ESA friends. We did fun things at Leadership and got to see lots of snow. More on Leadership coming….

All SERC Executive Board members have been assigned a state convention and the information was shared with your state president last month. I also want to share below so you too will know who is coming to your state convention. Please don’t hesitate to use their talents to help you. Send them a welcome note because they are so excited about their upcoming trip.

 **Alabama**: Denise Holdaway, First Vice President

 **Arkansas**: Gail Marchant, Treasurer

 **Florida**: Malinda Remington, Second Vice President

 **Georgia**: Rhonda Coy, Junior Past President

 **Kentucky**: Denise Holdaway, First Vice President

 **Louisiana**: Pinky Barbour, Recording Secretary

 **North Carolina**: Betty Keeton, Corresponding Secretary

 **South Carolina**: Lynda Edwards, President

 **Tennessee:** Lynda Edwards, President

 **Virginia**: Robin Allred, Parliamentarian

All Convention dates are published in the SERC Yearbook and on the SERC Website. Your web has valuable information, learn to use it. If you have trouble accessing, please email Bertha Warner, Web Master, and she will gladly help you.

State Presidents; please forward the monthly newsletters to all your state membership. Some incoming state presidents have never received a monthly newsletter and did not know there was one. This is Newsletter number four and we must rely on you to pass all information on to the membership. I only have a limited number of emails for each state. Communication is what I heard was needed but we can’t do it without your help. This not only includes the SERC Newsletter but the SERCH, the ESA Newsletters and Rickie’s Ramblings too. Once you have a group set up, it’s just one click of the button. If you don’t know how to set up a group, I am sure someone in your chapter or state would gladly help. I appreciate all of you and thank you for your cooperation.

Watch your Inbox for the SERCH coming in March.

Hugs,

Lynda Edwards

SERC President

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***FLORIDA NEWS*:**

Florida is “Up, Up and Away with ESA” starting with at least 14 new members. I have had the honor to conduct many of these Pledge Ceremonies; it is very exciting here in Florida.

Hope for Heroes is very important to me so I was invited (thank you so much Margaret Post) to the Bay Area Council Meeting January 28th, 2016. They had a quest speaker from Fisher House that is housed on the VA Hospital grounds in St. Petersburg. Fisher House (they are located on the grounds of major military and VA Medical Centers in the United States and also locations in Europe). Their theme is “Serving Military and Veterans’ Families in their time of need”. The speaker is the Manager of the house and she explained just a portion of what she does and how we can all serve in some way to help these families. I was so happy to find out about this and to know that in May of this year a Fisher House will open in my area. I am blessed to be a part of ESA and to know about things we can do to help each other and our communities. If I had not been invited to this I would be missing an opportunity to serve because I did not know very much about Fisher House.

Our upcoming State Leadership Meeting is March 5th so everyone is busy getting things ready. At our board meeting in January many members mentioned items to present at Leadership and one thing was “What is Leadership?” Trudie Myers, 2nd Vice President/Workshop Coordinator will present a program on this and bring in how it relates to the Pearls. There will be an event to benefit the children at Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and we are trying to promote using the state & IC websites. We will have some items at each table so we can all get better technology knowledge. Trying to include as many of the items people asked for, I think any knowledge you gain is for the betterment of us all. Leadership meetings have really changed over the years so we want a piece of the past and where we are now and what to look forward to for the future.

I leave you with this quote from Helen Keller “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Best Always to you all,

Barbara J. Fry

Florida State Council President

**GEORGIA NEWS:**

Hello to all our SERC Family:

Important “IFS”….

If you are digging out of the snow, good luck! If you are close to Savannah, Georgia, February 20, come to our Georgia Mid-Year Meeting. (We will be celebrating an early St. Patrick’s Day.) If you are anxious to make a donation to our St. Jude Radiothon, March10-11, please call and support the children at St. Jude Hospital. If you want some…

 then just “Believe”!

Frances Lanier, Georgia State Council President

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**Hope for Heroes:**

The dictionary says that a hero is “somebody who commits an act of remarkable bravery or who has shown an admirable quality such as great courage or strength of character”. We all can say that we know a hero and we admire them but do we go out of our way to say **“Thank You”.** Are YOU taking that extra step to let our **“HEROES”** know that we do remember them?

We send cards of encouragement and prayers during Christmas because it is the time of year that we know our military heroes are without family. After Christmas there is a lull in our expression of support.

I am challenging each of you to go to ESA’s website and register to get a list of the members and friends of ESA that are deployed at this time. Let them know they are remembered not only on holidays but everyday of the year.

Partner with schools, your local Veterans of Foreign Wars, and any other organization that have ongoing projects. I challenge you to start a card/letter writing campaign. **SHOUT OUT** to our **HEROES** that they are not forgotten.

Please share any ideas or projects with me and I will share them with other members!

Have a great 2016!

Linda Fields

SERC Hope For Heroes Chair

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Hi All,

I sure hope this letter finds you all happy and healthy!  It's the hardest time of year to be happy they say because of weather and time changes.  So my challenge for you is to find something to smile about every day!!!  It's not as hard as you think; think of kids playing, fun past high school days, holidays with family, that God has given us our life for another day. There are just all kinds of things that can make us smile.

So, while you are happy and smiling, why don't you also think of Serving on the SERC board?  That would make me smile big time!!  I have lots of places for members to serve.  We need members for Executive and Appointed Board positions.  My nomination committee consist of Glenn Gay (ggay123@cox.net) and Sharon Loftis (srloftis@suddenlink.net)  and myself Denise Holdaway (deniseholdaway@gmail.com).  We would be excited to hear from anyone wanting to serve.  I am excited to serve as your President for 2016-2017 and I know there are other SERC members with a passion to serve also. It's not scary; you meet new members and have so much fun!!

Gods speed and happy smiling till next month!

Love,

Denise Holdaway

1st Vice President

SERC 2015/2016

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Sisters, I received this beautiful birthday card from my 16 year old grandson and wanted to share it with you.

 *“Numbers Don't Tell You Anything About the Amazing Woman Inside”*

*As women, we are often analyzed in a myriad of different ways to see if we measure up. We are judged to be too big or too small, too round, too straight, too tall, too short. We are compared against numbers like 36-24-36...in inches, in size, and in age...all things that shouldn't matter.   If we are to be measured as women, let it be by the things that really count...the depth of our compassion, our thirst for knowledge, and our tremendous grace under fire. Let the breadth of our integrity and the width of our honor be more accurate measures of who we truly are than the size of our jeans or the date of our birth.
  Because, in the end, all the inches and sizes are just numbers...and numbers don't tell you anything about the amazing woman inside!!
I wear a size "beautiful", and any age is "fabulous".*

I just had to share this!

Happy Valentine Day
Sandy Weston
Past SERC President

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(We are all saddened by the sudden death of Denise Holdaway’s brother Lonnie Holdaway, age 45. Denise had to depart Denver Saturday morning and return home to Arkansas. Please keep her and this family in your thoughts and prayers in the coming days.) Lynda