

ESAF CHAIRMAN ARTICLE

INDEX	Page
Chairman Article	1
Zeffy Migration	2
Why An Endowment	4
Fantasy Event	5
ESAF Counselors	6
Palmer Recognition Program	7
ESAF Grants Program	8
Pathway Program	9
FundFest	10
Scholarship Spotlight	13
Notice of Annual Meeting	14
Contribution Form	15

Our Annual Board Meeting in February marked the official transition of several leadership roles. We extend our sincere appreciation to outgoing Director **Kim Mandrell**, who has completed her second three-year term as Director. Her steady leadership and unwavering commitment have left an invaluable and meaningful imprint on our work.

We also celebrate continuity and growth as **Kathy Loyd** returns to the Board, and **Brenda Schaffer** joins us as a new Director. Brenda’s experience, insight, and passion for our mission will strengthen our efforts in the years ahead.

In January, the Board elected this year’s officers: **Rosalie Griffith, Chairman; Tammy Akines, Vice Chair; Jennifer Sparkman, Secretary; and Gordon Leong, Treasurer.** Our directors will also serve in a variety of chairmanship roles, and many of them will be sharing updates and insights in this newsletter as well as future ones.

As I reflect on my years with the Foundation and now serving as Chair, I am reminded of a quote by Henry Ford: *“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”* The collective energy and talent represented on the Foundation Board is a powerful force. Our Board and Committee structure bring together a remarkable blend of experience, vision, and dedication. This diversity equips us to meet challenges with confidence, pursue new opportunities with creativity, and uphold the trust placed in us.

Together, we will continue to build a strong and sustainable future for the Foundation. We hope you will plan to join us in Norfolk, VA this July! The International Council has planned an exciting conference designed to make it a memorable and engaging experience for everyone.

Rosalie Griffith, Foundation Chair

Zeffy Migration

The Foundation appreciates everyone's patience as we tested the new payment application, Zeffy. Things have been going well, and the number of users have been increasing. Using this application helps the Foundation save on expenses and allows us to continue our mission of providing support to those looking to improve their education.

The Foundation has now elected to fully use Zeffy for credit card charges, and electronic bank transfers for all our events, such as membership renewal, the Fantasy event, Pathway, and general donations. This will replace the current costly Member Suite credit card service.

To facilitate this transition, the Foundation webpages have been updated and will send you directly to Zeffy. As part of making these changes, the Staff has worked with the Foundation to improve the layout of the page making it easier for you to navigate and read.

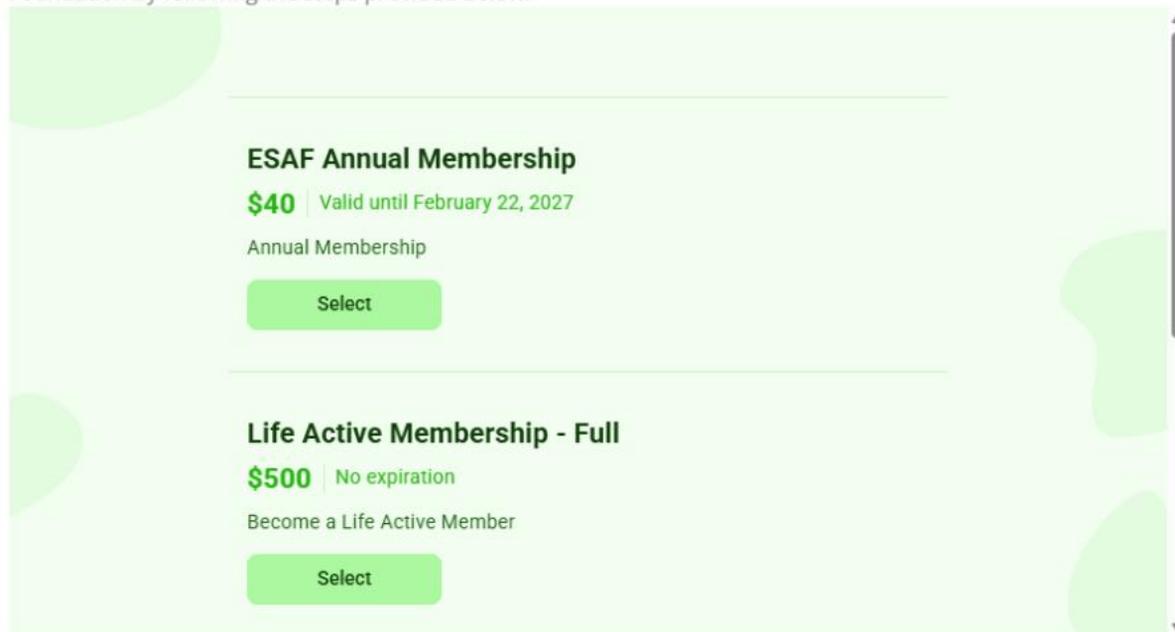
The following are some examples of the latest changes where you can click on a tile to get to the appropriate donation.



In addition, payment for your ESAF membership has also gotten simpler.

JOIN THE ESA FOUNDATION

An ESA Foundation membership is separate from a membership to ESA. Anyone can be a member of the ESA Foundation by following the steps provided below.



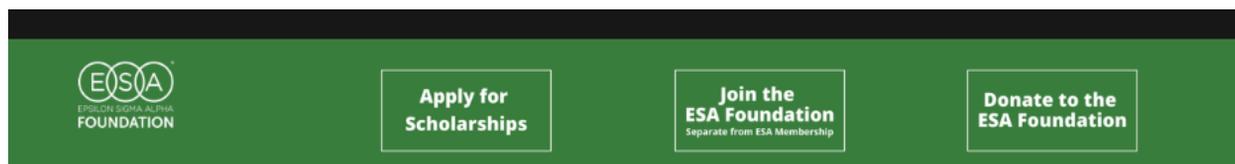
The screenshot shows a light green background with two membership options. The first option is 'ESAF Annual Membership' for \$40, valid until February 22, 2027. Below this is a 'Select' button. The second option is 'Life Active Membership - Full' for \$500 with no expiration. Below this is a 'Select' button. The interface is clean and modern, with a vertical scrollbar on the right side.

ESAF Annual Membership
\$40 | Valid until February 22, 2027
Annual Membership
[Select](#)

Life Active Membership - Full
\$500 | No expiration
Become a Life Active Member
[Select](#)

The option of mailing in your donation is still available, but you will need to complete the appropriate forms.

In addition, access to the ESA Foundation page has also been improved. From the ESA home page, the following selections can be used to take you directly to Foundation items.



The navigation bar is dark green and contains three main elements: the ESA Foundation logo on the left, and two buttons on the right. The first button is 'Apply for Scholarships' and the second is 'Join the ESA Foundation' with the subtext 'Separate from ESA Membership'. A third button, 'Donate to the ESA Foundation', is also present but partially obscured by the right edge of the image.

 [Apply for Scholarships](#) [Join the ESA Foundation
Separate from ESA Membership](#) [Donate to the ESA Foundation](#)

Please feel free to provide feedback to any of the Foundation directors on any of these changes.

Why an Endowment?

Have you ever wondered why people set up an Endowment?

I recently had a chance to ask our International President Celeste Webb that question.

Celeste's son, Mitch, was the youngest of her 4 children and the only boy with 3 sisters. In high school he excelled in wrestling. During his freshman year at college, he again participated in wrestling but at the end of his first year, he didn't feel that college was a good fit for him, so he joined the Army.

While serving in the Army, he trained as a diesel mechanic and served his country for 4 years.

Six months after his discharge from the Army, sadly, Mitch was killed in an auto accident. Celeste and some of her family started a scholarship in Mitch's memory. The scholarship was for a Mattoon High School senior wrestler who is continuing his education at a college or vocational school. To date, they have provided over \$20,000 in scholarships. The funds for these scholarships were raised by the family and friends at many local fundraising events.

At the IC retreat this past September, Celeste's good friend, Angie Butenschoen, talked with her about setting up an Endowment through the ESA Foundation and brought the necessary paperwork for Celeste to share with her family. She wanted to be sure they were all on board with the idea.

Once the Endowment is fully funded, a scholarship will be available to any veteran pursuing higher education. Celeste said: "I hope that these scholarships help change someone's life for the better. We miss our Mitch, his laugh, his hugs and we think he would like the idea of helping others in his memory."

Friends and family are now able to contribute to this new Mitch Webb Memorial Endowment in honor and appreciation of Celeste's dedication to ESA as she completes her term as International President of ESA in July 2026.

Many people start endowments in "memory of" or in "honor of". If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment Program, contact Judi King, the ESA Foundation Endowment Chairman.



Mitch Webb

2026 FANTASY EVENT SAILIN' ON DOWN THE RIVER

Sailin' on Down the River is this year's theme for the 2026 Fantasy Event. We won't ask you to put on your swimsuit or slather on the sunscreen. Just take a stroll, soak in the view, or close your eyes and imagine floating down a lazy river. Remember that your generous donation is tax-deductible. You can make your donation by using the Zeffy link; <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/2025-fantasy-event>, visiting our website or by simply mailing your gift to:

ESA Foundation
2580 E. Harmony Rd, Suite 301-11
Fort Collins, CO. 80528

Thank you for your unwavering support of the ESA Foundation.

Tammy Akines
2026 Fantasy Event Chairman



ESA FOUNDATION COUNSELORS

Thank you to all the foundation counselors for their hard work promoting the foundation over this last year. Everyone has done an amazing job. As the membership prepares for the 2026-2027 year, we want to highlight all the things that the Foundation Counselor does for the foundation.

The ESA Foundation relies on dedicated Counselors to serve as ambassadors, educators, and advocates for our mission. These volunteers play a vital role in promoting Foundation programs, encouraging donations, and supporting scholarship opportunities across their states and regions. ESA Foundation Counselors are responsible for educating both ESA members and the public about all aspects of the Foundation's work. They actively encourage financial support, assist with Foundation-sponsored projects, and promote programs such as scholarships, grants, endowments, planned-giving, and awards.

To serve, a Counselor must be a paid, active member of the ESA Foundation and commit to at least one-year term. Counselors are expected to maintain up-to-date membership records, respond promptly to correspondence, review monthly membership and donation reports, and forward any received funds directly to the Foundation Office. Participation in Foundation training workshops and the Annual Meeting is also strongly encouraged.

One of the Counselor's most important responsibilities is supporting the ESA Foundation Scholarship Program. As a public foundation, the scholarship program is open to all eligible applicants, and Counselors must ensure fairness and avoid any appearance of favoritism.

Preparation for scholarship season includes:

- Notifying secondary schools, private schools, and colleges throughout the state or region
- Directing students to the Foundation website to access and submit applications online
- Responding promptly to student inquiries and coordinating with the Scholarship Chairman when needed

Applications are processed entirely online, making timely communication and organization essential.

Beyond scholarships, Counselors:

- Promote Foundation presentations at seminars and workshops
- Encourage participation in awards and recognition programs
- Recognize outstanding members within their state or region
- Stay informed about all Foundation initiatives and share ideas with fellow Counselors

Through dedication, communication, and enthusiasm, ESA Foundation Counselors strengthen the Foundation's impact—ensuring continued support for education, service, and philanthropic initiatives in communities everywhere.

As the new counselors prepare for the upcoming year, please make sure to update the Foundation Counselor chair with information on the state/council Foundation Counselor for 2026-2027. The information required is: State/Council, ESA Foundation Counselor Name, ESA Foundation Counselor Address, City, State, Zip, Phone Number (home/work/cell), ESA Foundation Counselor email address. The form is being sent to all state presidents via the IC President's Newsletter. An email to Anne Murry (kyra_anne@yahoo.com), the Foundation Counselor Chair, will also be sufficient to update our records. Thank you for all the work you do for the foundation!

Spotlight on the Robert & Dixie Palmer Recognition Program

The ESA Foundation is proud to highlight one of its most meaningful honors: the Robert & Dixie Palmer Recognition Program. Established by the ESA Foundation Board of Directors, this award pays tribute to individuals whose dedication reflects the sincerity, strength, wisdom, faithfulness, and hard work exemplified by Robert and Dixie Palmer—two pillars of ESA whose legacy continues to inspire.

For many years, this recognition served as a special way to honor members who go above and beyond in their support of ESA and the ESA Foundation. Recently, the program has been quiet, yet the need to celebrate outstanding leadership has never diminished. Chapters and states are always seeking ways to acknowledge exceptional members, making now the perfect time to bring renewed attention to this meaningful opportunity.

About the Recognition

- A total of \$1,000 in contributions, given in increments of \$25 or more, designates an honoree for the Robert & Dixie Palmer Recognition.
- The honoree must be named when the first contribution is made.
- Recognition is presented at the Annual Membership Meeting, unless the donor requests a different setting.
- All funds support the development and implementation of ESA Foundation programs.

Why It Matters

Every state has members who embody the ideals of ESA—those who lead with heart, serve with integrity, and strengthen our organization through their dedication. Honoring them through the Robert & Dixie Palmer Recognition Program not only celebrates their contributions, but it also supports the future of the ESA Foundation.

If your chapter or state has someone who deserves this distinction, consider giving a contribution in their name. It's a powerful way to acknowledge their impact while helping advance the mission of ESA.

Rosalie Griffith, Foundation Chair



ESA Foundation Grants Program Professional Development & Vocational Support

Career Enhancement Grants

These grants support individuals seeking to strengthen their professional skills through additional education or training.

Eligible Uses

- Registration fees for workshops, seminars, or training programs
- Required study materials

Not Covered

- Travel expenses
- Hotel accommodations

Review Cycle

- Applications reviewed **quarterly**

Funding

- Maximum request: **\$2,000**
- Smaller requests are fully eligible

Vocational Training Grants

These grants assist individuals pursuing new career pathways or enhancing skills in their current field, including:

Eligible Uses

- Trade certifications and apprenticeships
- Training programs supporting veterans re-entering the workforce
- Fine arts programs that benefit returning military personnel

Not covered

- Not available for college tuition
- Not available for college textbooks
- Not available for college debt repayment

Review Cycle

- Applications reviewed **every six months**

Funding

- Maximum request: **\$2,000**



Application Information

Apply online at: <https://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/scholarships-and-grants/grants>

For questions or additional details, contact: **rosalie.griffith2@aol.com**



FOUNDATION®
EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA

Pathway Program

Honor Someone in your Life Today!

Celebrate special ESA Foundation or ESA members, community volunteers, or other special people with your gift to the Pathway Program. Your donations will pave the way to a brighter future for our organization, those who follow in our path, and all we serve.



[https://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/about/ESA-
Foundation/contribute/Pathway](https://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/about/ESA-9-
Foundation/contribute/Pathway)

ESA IC & ESA FOUNDATION FUNDFEST

2026 is a year of change, particularly at the ESA International Annual Convention. Along with the shortened convention week, the ESA International Council and the ESA Foundation are working together to have a fun filled Friday evening of Music Bingo. The combined group is continuing to work on the details for the evening, but we are looking to incorporate the fun activities from the past. We will continue to have an auction of State Baskets. In addition, there is a Vacation Raffle for a week at a timeshare. You **do not** need to be present to win the Vacation Raffle Timeshare, so don't hesitate to take advantage of this great opportunity. Please look at the various forms (bingo and vacation getaway raffle) in this newsletter. More information will be coming!

M	U	S	I	C
I Want It That Way	Poker Face	Karma Chameleon	Billie Jean	Everybody Wants to Rule the World
Sweet Child O' Mine	Eye of the Tiger	Like a Prayer	Physical	Come on Eileen
Sweet Dreams Are Made of This	Baby One More Time	Free	Total Eclipse of the Heart	I've Had the Time of My Life
Dancing in the Dark	Islands in the Stream	Take My Breath Away	Under Pressure	Walk Like an Egyptian
Love Shack	Eye of the Tiger	Livin' on a Prayer	We Are the World	Wannabe

Join ESAIC and ESAF in a fun-filled evening.
Enjoy some tunes and win some prizes on
July 18, 2026, at ESA Convention.

Sponsor a round of music bingo or be a general sponsor of the event.

Sponsors: _____ \$25 – Album of the Year, _____ \$50 – Record of the Year,
_____ \$100 – Song of the Year, _____ \$200 – Artist of the Year

Member Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Chapter Name/Number: _____

Willing to Donate: _____ Silent Auction Items _____ Oral Auction Items
_____ State Basket – Description

**Please remember that the successful basket winner will probably be traveling by plane.
Consider donating an ‘experience’ at a future convention city’s event or outing.
(PLEASE mark value of all auction items to assist in bid amounts)**

Other opportunities to participate.

- **Vacation Getaway Raffle**
- **10% Raffle**

Please return this form to: Gordon Leong, owls.c1510@gmail.com, or

Kim Mandrell, kimberley.mandrell@parhealth.com

*Please use the following QR Code, or web link to sponsor the Fund Raiser:



<https://www.zeffy.com/donation-form/esa-foundation-fund-fest>

ESA IC Executive Board &
ESA Foundation

VACATION GETAWAY RAFFLE

ONE WEEK STAY - ACCOMODATIONS WILL BE NO LESS THAN
A STUDIO WITH POSSIBILITY UP TO 3 BEDROOMS

1 Ticket \$20
2 Tickets \$35
3 Tickets \$50



Interval International Condo of your choice.
Location based on availability

Scan QR
Code to
purchase
tickets!



**DRAWING WILL BE HELD LIVE AT IC CONVENTION 7/18/2026
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. MUST BE 21 OR OLDER**

Taylor Cook
Winner of Jordon Griffith Memorial Scholarship - 2025

After completing an internship with the Rogers County Courthouse, I knew a profession in Law was my future. Winning this scholarship will greatly aid in my costly and lengthy goals of obtaining a Juris Doctor degree and practicing law in the state of Oklahoma. There I plan to assist in upholding justice and ensure the rights of individuals. It has always been important to participate in as many community organizations as possible, and this specific organization inspires me. I hope to be a leader throughout my community in the future, and I am truly honored to receive this scholarship.



Samantha Holt
Winner of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Cancer Survivor
Scholarship - 2025

As someone who has faced cancer at the age of 15 and underwent a lobectomy at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, this scholarship aligns perfectly with my career goals and will provide the financial support I need to pursue my education.

From a young age, I have been driven by a passion for physical therapy and caring for others. This passion has guided my academic and extracurricular pursuits, shaping me into a dedicated and ambitious individual.

My career goal is to become a physical therapist in the field of geriatrics and care for the elderly. I have always had a love for the elderly, and I am determined to make a significant impact in this area. I plan to achieve this by obtaining my undergraduate degree in Health Services Administration and furthering my studies to obtain a doctorate degree in physical therapy. My aim is to own an outpatient therapy clinic where I will offer physical, occupational, and speech therapy services so that we will be able to offer a holistic approach to rehabilitation for our patients. I am committed to working tirelessly to reach this milestone.



ESA FOUNDATION
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY JULY 18, 2026
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ESA FOUNDATION:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of the ESA Foundation will be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia on Saturday, July 19, 2026, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm for the purpose of conducting ESA Foundation business that is deemed necessary.

All members whose dues that have been received by the ESA Headquarters office by December 31, 2025, are entitled to vote. Ballots for chapters, councils, and ESA entities will be sent to the President on file with ESA Headquarters. All other ballots will be sent to the email address on file. **Please contact ESA Headquarters to update your email address and your entity's President's information.**

At this time; no voting is anticipated for the Annual Membership meeting. Voting for new Director candidates is planned for December 2026. More information will be provided closer to that date.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Come and hear from our
recent Scholarship
Recipients at the Annual
Membership Meeting**

