Oregon State Council of ESA International

**The Oregon State Council of ESA International was established in November 1946**. There were 13 original chapters. Two are still active – Alpha Zeta, Eugene and Alpha Lambda, Medford. The first chapter to charter in Oregon was Alpha Alpha #275 in Portland in June 1941. Alpha Zeta # 594 in Eugene was the second. Alpha Alpha has since disbanded.

The peak membership in Oregon was in 1974 when there were a total of 78 chapters and 1225 active members. In 2013 there were **22 chapters and 279 active members**. Membership remains a strong goal for this coming year. We are not alone in our pursuit of members along with most other philanthropic organizations within our nation.

There are **six (6) Districts** within the Oregon State Council – Central, Douglas, Eastern, Northwest, Southern and Willamette Valley. These Districts, in rotation, produce our annual State Conventions each year.

Oregon is a charter member of the **Western Regional States Council** (WRSC) which includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington and Australia. We contribute to the *WRSC Helping Hands Scholarship* program.

**Oregon has a very strong philanthropic focus**. Since 1942 the existing chapters began giving to the Children’s Hospital School in Eugene; their Brace and Booty Fund and to Camperships for Camp Easter Seal. When the Hospital School became part of **Easter Seals** we continued our support with an Outreach Van. We currently assist them with telethons, Frost-a-Cake fundraisers and many other activities including interaction with clients. In later years ESA International made Easter Seals one of the ESA’s International Projects.

In 1972 Danny Thomas visited with us in Portland when we hosted the annual IC Convention. He asked us to help him keep his promise to St Jude that “the children might live”. Oregon joined with the rest of our states in making **St Jude Children’s Research Hospital** a priority in our fundraising activities. We answered with a resounding, YES! Activities in Oregon include radio-thons, Capture for the Kids, Saddle Up for St. Jude, Walk the Dog, Math-a-thons and many other fund raising projects.

Oregon ESA chapters also make time to adopt and contribute to many **local and community charities** within the easy reach of their individual chapters. They work with schools, libraries, local symphonies, social and health agencies, NW Medical teams, shelters for women and children, programs for children and adults with special needs, homeless families and a new Oregon and International project – **Hope for Heroes** aiding our vets and their families.

Together we Oregon members fund a **Disaster Fund** which made available to ESA members who face catastrophic personal situations.

We are a strong supporter of the **ESA Foundation** established in 1970. This foundation is a non-profit/tax exempt public foundation and operates exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. It provides scholarships, grants, endowments and strives to provide assistance to others to improve their chances at a better future.

***We touch the lives of others while changing our own***