

FLAG CEREMONY REPORT

2016 OREGON STATE CONVENTION

SEVEN FEATHERS

I would like to thank Kaycee Headley for the honor of planning the Flag Ceremony for the 2016 State Convention. And a big thank you to all of the flag bearers who graciously agreed to assist.

After thinking about what I wanted to do, and looking at all of the ceremonies from the past few years I mulled it over in my mind. There is only so much difference that any chairman can make. You just need to put your own words and slant on the ceremony.

I have enclosed a sample of the letters I sent to each of the persons that I thought would be carrying flags.

I established that the hotel had storage for the flags before the ceremony. Determined where each of the flags would be placed. Checked on rehearsal time and official opening of the Convention time. I took three extra pair of white gloves, in the event someone forgot their gloves. Often happens.

We had some changes in bearers at the last minute but that is to be expected. One member walked with a cane and felt she could not be in the ceremony, We had someone carry the flag for her and they both walked down the isle.

I did not print a ceremony booklet as I felt it was an extra expense that was not necessary, If anyone wanted a copy of the wording, I have extra copies with me at convention,

I have also printed a copy of the ceremony which is marked with who walks next and when they walk. Many bearers have done this before but a newer member might get nervous and I wanted all bases to be covered and no one embarrassed.

It is Thursday before Convention. I am ready to go, You will know if the ceremony went as planned by the time you read this.

Good Luck next year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.

Sandra Bristow
Alpha Zeta
Flag Chairman
541-746-5196

March 1, 2016

Jeanette Rhodes
165 Black Oak Street
Grants Pass, OR 97527

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sandra Bristow", written in black ink. The signature is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page, overlapping the recipient's address.

Dear Jeanette,

Since our Oregon State Convention is rapidly approaching, it is time for me to start planning the Flag Ceremony. I would appreciate it if you, as District President would carry the District flag for the opening ceremony on Saturday morning and the closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon. Please wear the requisite white gloves both times.

Please bring with you your gloves and your flag, pole and standard. There will be a room available at the hotel for storage.

There will be a short rehearsal early Saturday morning, probably about 7:30, but will notify you later of the exact time.

If there are any suggestions or special request you would like incorporated into the ceremony, please let me know. I'm open and willing to do anything you would like. In the mean time, if you have any questions or needs that I can help with, please call me at 541-746-5196 or C 541-912-2866 or email Sandrabristow@msn.com. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Sandra Bristow
Flag Chairman
85007 Kensington Drive
Pleasant Hill OR 97455

Good Morning. First may I request that all cell phones be turned off during our opening ceremony. Secondly, there is to be no picture taking during the Flag Ceremony. You will be invited to take pictures after the conclusion today,

My name is Sandra Bristow and I welcome each of you to our 70th Oregon State Convention. Our president Kaycee Headley chose the wonderful theme of "ESA is Love with Work Boots on". I hope all of you felt the love and worked hard. We will Cherish our sister and brotherhood, celebrate our accomplishments for St Jude, Easter Seal, and the many local projects that we have worked on.

Without further ado:

The Willamette Valley District Council flag is carried today by Katie Hobson, District President.

This flag, which is white and depicts a seascape with a circle and lone tree, symbolizes the district from the coast to the mountain range. Thank you Katie.

The Southern District flag is carried by Jeannette Rhodes, Southern District President.

This flag has a large circle of green, within which you will see symbols representing the mountains, rivers and industries of the southern region. Thank you Jeanette.

The Northwest District flag is carried by BG Brackman, Northwest District President. The beauty of the Cascade Range and the mighty Columbia River are set against a background of blue. The Capital building represents the political strength of the area, and the apple is a symbol of the region. Thank you BG

The Central District flag is carried by Judy Johnson, representing the Central District. On this flag you will see a background of blue, surrounded by a darker blue circle. The many majestic mountains and beautiful high dessert plains of the central region are depicted on this flag. Thank you Judy.

The Eastern District flag is carried by Lori Ritter, Eastern District President.

This flag has a background of brown with symbols depicting the diversity of the area from the majestic Wallowa mountains, to the fields of grain and the pioneer spirit of its' people. The cowboy you see, represents the famous Pendleton round up which is held each year. Thank you Lori.

The Douglas District flag is displayed by Mary Westcott
And Jennie Dickinson Douglas District President. Mary is President of Beta Eta,
Sutherlin.

This flag is in the shape of Douglas County with its' field of brown and symbols representing the economic and recreational aspects of the area. The proud Douglas Fir is depicted on side of this flag. Its green color represents prosperity, fruitfulness, growth and hope. Thank you Jennie and Mary.

The Western States Council Flag is carried by Mary Lambert, Western States Council President.

This flag symbolizes how women from many different walks of life, ranging from the frozen tundra of Alaska, down the rocky coastline of the Pacific to the sunny skies of California and Arizona, all the way to the outback of Australia, have joined together to form a network of friendship and support for one another and our mutual projects. Thank you Mary.

The Easter Seal flag is carried by Bonnie Cook, representing Easter Seal.

This flag represents the Easter Seal Society which has been helping people with disabilities and special needs since 1919. It was then known as the National Society for Crippled Children and officially changed the name in 1957. Easter Seal Society helps more than a million children and adults annually with medical rehabilitation, physical, occupational speech and hearing therapy, job training and employment and childcare. Thank you Bonnie.

The St Jude Flag is carried by our Circle of Life Representative Andrea Storm. The St Jude Children's Research Hospital mission is to find cures for children's catastrophic illnesses through research and treatment. The dedication and tireless efforts of all of our ESA members through the years have truly become a reason to celebrate in helping to fulfill the hospital's mission and to assist in saving thousands of children's lives.

Thank you Andrea.

The ESA Foundation Flag is carried by Judy Huntley, ESA Foundation Representative.

This flag represents an organization pledged to develop philanthropic activities of volunteers, provide assistance to established programs that serve human needs, and produce new programs that improve the quality of life. The ESA Foundation manages millions of dollars of scholarships that are dispersed each year. With its colors of blue and white and emblazoned with a world globe, this flag represents the motto "Serving the World Community because we care" Thank you Judy.

The ESA Banner is carried by Ellen Ellis, Gavels Chairman.

This banner stands for an organization whose single purpose is to inspire leadership and service by encouraging good people to pursue programs and projects that make a positive difference. It stands for the ideals and standards to which all ESA members hold themselves – courage, honor, truth fullness, friendliness and loveliness. Its beautiful gold and blue symbolize the golden Lamp of Learning and our open book of knowledge. Thank you Ellen.

The All Faiths Flag is carried by Carolyn Warren, Oregon State Chaplain. The ESA flag of all Faiths is symbolic of all our faiths, without regard to demonization, creed or sect. The green represents the spiritual growth in our lives, while the white dove of peace serves as a reminder to keep within our hearts a prayer for peace and love through out the world. The international circle represents all ESA members who have joined hands across the seas, working together in harmony and friendship. May this symbol, representing one of the four great freedoms, the freedom of religion, give us continued strength, courage and faith to serve mankind and one another. Thank you Carolyn.

The Oregon State Flag is carried by Kaycee Headley, Oregon State President.

This Oregon State Flag with its brilliant blue and gold represents the beautiful state of Oregon in which we live. This flag was designed originally in 1925, around the seal are the 33 stars representing our being the 33rd state in the Union. It is a flag of strength, settled by pioneers who were welcomed by the Natives of this new land. Thank you Madam President.

At a time when wars, local issues and political turmoil has us all taking a look at the nation we call home, our flag is a reminder to us all of the sacrifices that have been made in the past and the sacrifices being made today for an ideal called freedom. We have a flag that symbolizes the beginning of our nation and has through the years changed and grown so that in a glance we can remember our past and look to the future. We are a nation of diversity in cultures and lifestyles. The red in our flag stands for courage, the courage to take a stand in tough times and to believe that right will always be right. The white stands for hope that all who live and work here will prosper. The blue stands for truth and justice the heart of our nation. The stars represent all of our states as unique and diverse as those who live and live in those spaces they call home. Let us proudly stand and face the flag as it is presented today by: Kim Kummer, the IC Treasurer.

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS. ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

You may be seated.

RETIRING OF THE FLAGS

Flag bearers, please take your places.

Please stand for the retiring of the flags.

As our convention comes to a close, let us once again salute and honor our flags, the symbols of our heritage of our lives.

The United States flag is being retired by our International Council Treasurer, Kim Kummer. Kim, it has been an honor having you with us this weekend. This is our Star Spangled Banner - long may it wave o'er the land of the free and home of the brave.

The Oregon flag – a symbol of our state's great heritage.

The All Faith flag- nay we go forth with God's blessing in all our endeavors.

The ESA banner – we are never alone in our quest to achieve our goals.

The ESA Foundation flag= Serving the World Community because we care.

The St. Jude Flag – let us continue helping children with catastrophic illnesses.

The Easter Seal Flag – let us continue helping people with disabilities.

The Western States flag – symbolizing common goals among the Western States.

Our District Flags – the Pride of Oregon.

Douglas District

Eastern District

Central District

Northwest District

Southern District

Willamette Valley District

This weekend, we have enjoyed taking time with Kaycee to celebrate ESA by remembering that ESA is Love with Work Boots On, Now President Lani has the reins

Thank you to the Southern District members for all of their hard work in hosting this convention. We hope you had a wonderful time. Thank you and be safe traveling home.