

Flag Ceremony Convention 2017

No Ka 'Oi. None Better. That's what we believe. About ESA and all its aspects. About the organizations that ESA supports. About each of our districts. About our members.

The flags that will be presented represent aspects people touching and enriching the lives of others while changing their own all for the better.

Around the world, the United States flag represents a nation of people willing to roll up their sleeves and dig into a problem. A nation of people working to make their life and lives of others better since the Pilgrims envisioned a new beginning. The flag is presented by Sandy Alexander, International Council First Vice President.

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

You may be seated.

The Oregon State flag is symbolic of the people who opened Oregon up for the settlers beginning with Lewis and Clark to the pioneers of the Oregon Trail wagon trains following later. Along the

way, there are numerous reports of people working and helping each other to find a better life. The flag is presented by Lani Shimer, Oregon State Council President.

The All Faiths Flag represents ESA members supporting each other in times of sorrow and celebrating in times of joy. It is the greatest gifts that we give the ones we care about: our shoulders to cry on, our smiles of encouragement and our love that is steadfast. The sign of true friendship is knowing that there is someone who is there to kiss the booboo and make it all better. The flag is presented by Jeannette Rhodes, Oregon State Council Chaplain.

The ESA Banner stands for an organization whose sole purpose is to inspire leadership and service by bringing good people together to pursue programs and projects that work to enrich lives locally, nationally and internationally since 1929. The flag is presented by Sandi Bristow, Oregon State Gavel's Treasurer.

ESA Foundation Flag represents an organization pledged to develop philanthropic activities of volunteers, provide assistance to established programs that serve human needs, and produce new programs to improve the quality of life. The ESA Foundation provides opportunities for its members and for others to make the lives of all just a little bit better. The flag is presented by Su McDonell, Oregon State ESA Foundation Chair.

The Western States Council Flag symbolizes how members from many different walks of life, scattered from the frozen tundra of Alaska, down the rocky coastline of the Pacific Northwest to the sunny skies of California and Arizona, all the way to the outback of Australia have banded together to form a network of friendship and support for one another and mutual projects. The flag is presented by Chris York, Western States Council Representative.

The St. Jude Flag represents a research children's hospital dedicated to helping the youngest survive. ESA joined that dedication in 1972, helping to raise over \$260 million since, which helps provide medical research and aid, as well as housing for family members of patients. St. Jude's cancer treatment protocol is shared around the world with no regard to race, religion, or ability to pay: only concerned with the helping to make patients better. The flag is presented by Judy Huntley, Sr Circle of Life Chair.

Easter Seals has been helping people with disabilities and special needs since 1919, then known as the National Society for Crippled Children. Easter Seals enriches the lives of more than one million children and adults annually with medical rehabilitation; physical, occupational, speech and hearing therapy; job training and employment; and child care. The Easter Seal flag is presented by ~~Bonnie Cook~~ Jerry Saxwold, Sr/Jr. Easter Seals Chair.

Valley
Willamette District Council works to make the lives of children

better by helping to provide goodies in wonderful bags filled with love given during trying times in their little lives. Their love of ESA and each other energizes them to attend functions of other Districts & Chapters. Their flag is presented by Katie Hobson, Willamette Valley District Council President.

Eastern District Council is a small District within a large area of the state. The two Chapters pull together for Ways and Means projects all to help support St Jude, Easter Seals along with their local charity organizations. They manage to do this all while planning this year's State Convention. Their flag is presented by Lori Ritter, Eastern District Council President.

Central District Council is composed of only three Chapters, they gather together twice a year as weather permits. This district is a powerhouse of members who stop at nothing in their endeavors to make life better for others. Their flag is presented by Melanie Swan, Central District Council President.

Douglas District Council shared their love of ESA with welcoming Alpha Chi into their district this past year and hosting their own Association of Arts show. The flag is presented by Mary Westcott and Jenni Dickinson, Beta Eta President and Douglas District Council President.

Northwest District Council has been involved with numerous

activities over the years such as scholarships, Style Shows, Wine Tasting, Art Shows, Loft Tours, and the Oregon Food Bank. Their flag is presented by Linda Gratteri, Northwest District Council President.

Southern District Council Chapters has several get togethers each year. All of this provides them with opportunities for continued friendship while helping others to enjoy life. Their flag is presented by Shirley Reese, Southern District Council President.

What does it really mean to be none better? Does it mean to always be the best? Or does it mean to always try your best and never give up? The flags presented this morning represent people always striving to be better, never giving up, and giving it their all no matter what endeavor they are taking on.

Flag Bearers, please post your colors.

Flag Bearers, you may be seated.

Thank you.

Closing Ceremony

Flag Bearers, please take your places.

As the flags retire I would like to play a song that truly expresses what a wonderful world this is sung by one of Hawaii's musical legends. Listen to the words and reflect on we all make this world a better place.