

## Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO)

The purpose of ESO is to provide clubwomen with a structured reading program to promote individual educational pursuits and stimulate a desire for self-improvement.

ESO can take the form of a reading group or through an individual's personal reading activities. The goals of ESO which is developed primarily for the personal benefit of clubwomen are as follows:

To encourage clubwomen's continuing pursuit of self education

To create an additional means to unite women in volunteerism

To stimulate systematic home reading and study with minimum supervision

To encourage the establishment of home libraries and greater use of public libraries

To encourage the formation of reading/study/discussion groups

### How do I join?

Interested GFWC-NC members complete the ESO pledge application which can be obtained from your club's ESO Chairman, if you have one, or the state Chairman. The Pledge indicates an interest in working towards membership status, the first ESO level. Send pledge applications, with a \$5 enrollment fee, to help cover the expenses associated with maintaining the ESO organization to the state Chairman, who will begin recording your progress. Once the application has been received, you will be sent the Official ESO Handbook and Reading List.

#### **GFWC-FL -ESO Chairman's Address:**

Lucy Ann Wines

6161 N Misty Oak Terrace

Beverly Hills FL 34465

Phone: 352-489-4075 Cell Phone: 352-6972548 Fax: 352-897-5119

**E-mail:** LAWines@tampabay.rr.com

### What are my responsibilities?

Your main responsibility is, of course, reading. After you have become a pledge, you will select books to read within from a reading list with multiple categories. Then, you need to complete a report form (one to three sentences is sufficient) expressing your opinion of each book read. When a category (five books) is completed the report form is sent (e-mail may be used) to the state ESO Chairman. As you read more books and complete more categories you will work your way through the ESO levels, from ESO Pledge to ESO Century Award Member, receiving a certificate if you wish, to acknowledge your accomplishment.

The program is self-paced, and the subject categories on the reading list cover a wide range of topics. In addition to the current GFWC ESO Reading List which is found on the GFWC web site, selections from prior ESO lists, American Library reading lists, Goodreads lists, Pulitzer Prize list, current bestseller lists or any other list or author you find that interests you, will be accepted towards credit in the appropriate category.

### What are the benefits of ESO?

ESO can be either a group or solitary endeavor, depending on your preference. Participating in a book reading group provides opportunities for a wide range of interesting discussions limited only by the number of members and the books reviewed as well as a way to establish new friendships. Individual reading activities provide the structure for a unique self-improvement program by gaining knowledge about the world, different cultures and ethnic groups, life changing experiences, family dynamics, technological advances, history, recreation, the list is unlimited. But primary, whether you read alone or with others is to cultivate or enhance your LOVE OF READING, be it one or one hundred books, while making a contribution to your club.

## Are there other ESO activities besides reading?

Suggestions for club related activities:

### *A Book for All Members*

Select a book of local, national or international interest at the beginning of the year, encourage all members to read it and hold a discussion as the program at a membership meeting. Develop related activities like theme luncheon and prizes.

### *Books for My Community*

Collect new or gently used books to distribute throughout the community – nursing homes, medical offices, Laundromats, a treasure chest of books to take home at public libraries with a club bookplate in each book.

### *Recruit New Members*

Establish a book club, theme discussion or study group which meets in a library, senior center or other location open to the public and invite women from the community to attend.

### *Lend A Hand to Literacy*

Investigate the need for a free literacy program in your community. If one exists, support it with tutoring time, spreading the word and helping to purchase resources for the program.

### *Read to Ride*

Sponsor a children's reading program, in conjunction with your local library or school, similar in structure to ESO tracking books, how many and their opinion of the book with a bicycle as an award for the most books read.

### *Read Our Own*

Sponsor an event featuring local authors. Provide the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of their work.

### *Read-Recycle-Return*

Sponsor a book sale as a fund raising event. Emphasize this helps with the recycling effort, provides inexpensive entertainment and what is not sold donate to your local library.

### *Kids Read, Inc.*

Sponsor a program where children read to adults in a nursing home or assisted living, especially to those with impaired vision or limited family contact.

### *Reading is -----*

Sponsor a poster contest for elementary school children, asking them to feature what reading is to them. Award prizes for various categories.

### *Weight the World in Words*

Have ESO members weigh the books they read and award a prize to the member with the highest weight total.

## GFWC Florida ESO Program

GFWC Florida is in Category 1 for awards together with California, Illinois, New Jersey and Virginia. What a thrill it was to accept First Place Certificate at the GFWC International Conference in 2013 at the ESO Breakfast. And, as if that were not enough of an achievement, at the 2014 Annual Convention, Florida won another First Place award.

Congratulation to all of the GFWC Florida ESO members whose reading made the awards possible! Without your efforts, it couldn't have happened. Let's see what other levels of achievement we can reach in 2014-2016, especially in our joy of reading.

I am pleased and excited to be serving as ESO chairman. I will be happy to accept to speak at your club. Please contact me if you have a question, suggestion, idea, complaint or critique. ESO belongs to you and I am here to assist you in any way I can.