

District Chairman, the State Chairman issues a certificate for the appropriate level and assigns the member a number for that level, which is recorded in the CFWC records. The recorded number, certificate, and signed jewelry order blank are returned to the District Chairman for Presentation.

Pins and Guards are available to those who wish to buy them. Upon certification of each reading level, the CFWC ESO chairman will send an order blank with prices and information on where to buy the jewelry.

#### PURPOSE

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) provides a structured reading program for all per-capita paying GFWC federated club members. It is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. Members may read at their own pace with a formal group, or on their own.

#### GOALS

The goals of the ESO program are:

1. To encourage clubwomen's pursuit of higher educations.
2. To create an additional means to unite women of volunteerism.
3. To develop a support network for women returning to school.
4. To improve current and develop new study skills.
5. To stimulate systematic home reading

and study with minimum supervision.

6. To encourage the establishment of home libraries.
7. To encourage the formation of reading, study, and discussion groups.

#### MOTTO

Our Honorary Society Motto is "Enlighten Thy Own Pathway," translated from the Greek "Epilampe Ten Saudou Hodon."

#### HISTORY

The Indiana Federation of Clubs established ESO in 1928. From 1930 to 1940 it was incorporated as a national sorority. In 1940, it became a Special Committee of GFWC. ESO became a part of the Education Department of GFWC in 1950. California, the twentieth state to receive an ESO Charter, became Upsilon Chapter in 1954.

#### READING LISTS

A free copy of GFWC Reading Handbook 2008 is available on the GFWC Website: [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org), or a copy may be purchased for \$3.00 from: GFWC Headquarters; Attn: MATERIALS CENTER, 1734 N Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036-2990.

The CFWC 1996 ESO Handbook has an excellent selection of books for

## WHAT IS ESO?



## EPSILON SIGMA

Epsilon Sigma Omicron is an honorary educational society. It is a part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Education Department. Through ESO Federated Members have the opportunity to continue their education as they participate, at their own pace, in the society's own reading program.

COME READ WITH US!

**ESO PLEDGE APPLICATIONS:** Please complete the following application and send it to your club chairman, if none, send it to the district chairman. This form will be used to track your progress as an ESO member through the ESO Levels.

Date				
Member Name				
GFWC Club	Ojai Valley Women's Club			
Address				
City	State	Zip Code		
Phone	E-mail			

I hereby agree to pursue the goals of ESO and to participate in ESO programs:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## ESO TODAY

Epsilon Sigma Omicron has established chapters in approximately 35 states, Pledges to the program read at their own pace. The average reader achieves the Membership Level in about a year, but there are no time limits set in ESO! More than 1,500 plus members have achieved the Membership Level in Upsilon Chapter (California) since it was chartered.

### ESO READING REQUIREMENTS

All ESO Reading Levels require the reader to write a brief report of 50 words or less for each book read.

See: GFWC ESO Handbook for this form. These reports are to be handed into the Club Chairperson. Where there is no Club Chairperson, these reviews are given to the District Chairperson. The District Chairperson notifies the State Chairperson of a member's completion of a level.

### GFWC ESO LEVELS

**PLEDGE:** A member fills out an ESO Pledge Application, and returns it to the Club or District Chairperson. The ESO Handbook provides the Pledge with a reading list, which is divided into 23 subject categories. See: Membership be-

low for reading requirements.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Read and report on a total of 16 books (four books from four different categories). On completion of these books, the member is eligible to wear the ESO pin, and receive a membership certificate.

**STAR LEVEL:** Read and report on a total of 40 books (four books from ten different categories). The member will receive a Star level certificate.

**TORCH LEVEL:** Read and report on 75 books from seven different categories. The member will receive a Torch level certificate. A torch guard is available to attach to the pin.

**CENTURY LEVEL:** Read and report on 100 books in Free Choice or ESO books. It is hoped that at this level the Reader will be discerning in book choices. With each additional 100 books read, and advanced Century Certificate is awarded.

On completion of the Century Level, the Reader will have read a total of 231 different books from the 23 categories.

### AWARDS AND JEWELRY

Upon receipt of certification from the