

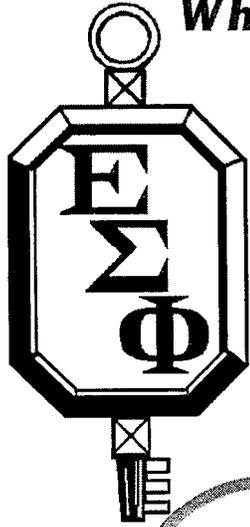


**2006**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF**  
**EPSILON SIGMA PHI**  
**PI CHAPTER**

The mission of Epsilon Sigma Phi is to foster the standard of excellence in the Extension system and to develop the Extension profession and professional.

# Epsilon Sigma Phi

## ***Why would you join Epsilon Sigma Phi?***



Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) is a unique organization that promotes life long learning and a spirit of fellowship among present and past Extension employees.

With recent changes in Extension, membership in ESP is more important than ever!

Being a member of ESP has many benefits and opportunities. You can:

- Stay up-to-date with state/federal legislation that affects Extension programs and benefits plus be part of the *strategy* to maintain a strong Extension Service.
- Stay up-to-date through professional publications that address *timely needs and challenges* of members.
- Participate in *fund-raising events* that grow the Minnesota Extension Worker's Scholarship (MEWS) Fund.
- Apply for and receive a *scholarship* for professional development through the MEWS Fund.
- Participate in annual meetings, special programs, and a calling tree that facilitates ongoing member *communication*.
- Be *recognized* for your outstanding work and performance for the University of Minnesota Extension Service and Epsilon Sigma Phi.

**Epsilon Sigma Phi – Pi Chapter Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 27, 2006 – 4:45 p.m.**  
**Extension Regional Center – Andover, MN**  
**AGENDA**

**Call to Order** – Janet Beyer  
**Appointment of Timekeeper and Parliamentarian**  
**Additions, Approval of Agenda**  
**Introduction of Guests**

**Minutes of 2005 Annual Meeting** – Andrea Ruesch  
**Treasurer’s Report** – Sheila Craig

**Highlights of President’s Report** – Janet Beyer  
**Acceptance of Committee Reports as printed in Annual Report** -- Glenice Johnson  
Awards and Recognition – Cindy Bigger  
Global/International – Chuck Schwartau  
History/Archives – David Pace  
Legislative & Benefits– Jeanne Markell/Liz Templin  
Membership – Diane Damerow/Kia Harries  
Newsletter – Sara Croymans/Kathy Olson  
Nominating Committee – Cindy M. Petersen  
Professional Improvement – Neil Broadwater  
Retiree – Beth Russell  
Scholarship – Roselyn Biermaier  
Silent Auction – Colleen Gengler

**Old Business**

**Retirees Directory and Communication** – Gwen Gmeinder  
**Audit Report and Recommendation** – Chuck Schwartau/Kathy Olson  
**Proposed By-Law Changes** – Janet Beyer  
MAEE & ESP Collaboration  
Associate Member Proposal

**New Business**

**2006-2007 Election of Officers** – Cindy M. Petersen  
**Proposed 2006-2007 ESP Budget** – Sheila Craig  
**National ESP meeting** – Janet Beyer  
**MN Extension Centennial Celebration** – Jeanne Markell  
**Other business**

**New Member Initiation** – Membership Committee  
**Awards Presentations** – Cindy Bigger  
**Memorial Service** – Beth Russell

**2006-2007 ESP Leadership Team Announcement/Installation** – Cindy M. Petersen  
**Announcement of 2006-2007 ESP Committee Chairs** – Glenice Johnson  
**Other announcements: ESP Dollar Auction, NAEFCS National Meeting**

**Adjourn**

## 2004-2005 PI CHAPTER OFFICERS

- President:** Janet Beyer  
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- President-elect:** Glenice Johnson  
Regional Extension Educator, Family Resource Management  
Extension Regional Center, Crookston  
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(218)281-8689 (888)241-0781 Fax: (218)281-8686  
Email: [johns436@umn.edu](mailto:johns436@umn.edu)
- Secretary:** Andrea Ruesch  
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- Treasurer:** Sheila Craig  
Retired Extension Educator and Professor Emeritus U of MN Extension Service  
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- Past President:** Cindy M. Petersen  
Regional Extension Educator, Family Resource Management  
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(320) 234-0440 (888) 241-3207 Fax: (320) 234-0444  
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- Directors:** Naomi Fruechte  
Retired Extension Educator &  
Professor Emeritus U of MN  
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- Kent Gustafson  
Extension Educator, Tourism  
120 BioAgEng  
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## **2005-2006 Committees:**

**Auction & Fundraiser:** **Colleen Gengler**  
(507) 372-3907 (888) 241-4635 Email: [gengl003@umn.edu](mailto:gengl003@umn.edu)

**Member Services (Awards):** **Cindy Bigger**  
(218) 998-5793 (888) 241-0843 Email: [cbigger@umn.edu](mailto:cbigger@umn.edu)

**Global Relations (International):** **Chuck Schwartau**  
(507) 536-6301 (888)241-4536 Email: [cschwart@umn.edu](mailto:cschwart@umn.edu)

**History & Archives:** **David Pace**  
(651) 636-6207 Email: [pacevhde@comcast.net](mailto:pacevhde@comcast.net)

**Public Issues (Legislative):** **Jeanne Markell**  
(612) 624-5360 Fax: (612) 625-6227 Email: [marke002@umn.edu](mailto:marke002@umn.edu)

**Liz Templin**  
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**Membership Recruitment & Retention:** **Diane Damerow**  
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**Pi Chapter Newsletter co-editors:** **Sara Croymans**  
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**Kathleen A. Olson**  
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**Nominating:** **Cindy Petersen**  
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**Professional Development:** **Neil Broadwater**  
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**Retiree/Life Member:** **Elizabeth Russell**  
Home: (320) 269-8475 Email: [erussell@charter.net](mailto:erussell@charter.net)

**Resource Development & Management (Scholarship)** **Roselyn Biermaier**  
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**Epsilon Sigma Phi – Pi Chapter Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday October 12, 2005**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballroom, Brooklyn Center**  
**Meeting Minutes**

President Cindy Petersen called the meeting to order at 4:21 pm. President Petersen appointed Rosi Heins as the timekeeper. Shirley Anderson-Porisch was appointed as the parliamentarian. Marian Anderson, Sara Croymans, and Toni Smith will review the minutes.

Rosi Heins moved to approve the agenda as printed and Bruce Schwartau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The 2004 meeting minutes were reviewed by Nancy Hegland. Beth Russell moved to approve the minutes and Cindy Bigger seconded it. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was reviewed by Sheila Craig. Naomi Fruechte moved to approve the treasurer's report. Liz Templin seconded the motion. Dorothy Freeman moved to amend the motion to include the amount from the savings account. Toni Smith seconded the amendment. The amendment and motion passed.

**Highlights of the President's Report** – Cindy Petersen reviewed the President's report, which is printed on page 12 of the annual report. She highlighted the JCEP workshop held in Milwaukee. Cindy also reviewed the Pi Chapter goals for 2004-2005.

**Committee reports**

**Awards and Recognition** – The committee was charged to review the awards and recognition process with MAEE. We have very few awards in common, although we will be presenting an overall teamwork award this evening at the MAEE banquet. Cindy Bigger reported that we did have an increase in the number of award applications this year. The awards will be presented later in the meeting.

**Global and International** – Chuck Schwartau reviewed the printed report. He has been exploring working with other Universities regarding their international programs. Chuck has tried to find information from Michigan and Florida. He has connected with other departments at the University of Minnesota, however is finding limited opportunities. The University of Minnesota Office of Special Programs can help in setting up international trips, however many are on your own. Chuck shared some web sites that can be helpful to people interested in international work. They include: [www.international.umn.edu](http://www.international.umn.edu) or [www.aiaee.org/pdf/Clearwater.pdf](http://www.aiaee.org/pdf/Clearwater.pdf).

**History and Archives** – Sue Meyer was not present and she would like some help with this committee.

**Legislative & Benefits** - Jeanne Markell and Liz Templin were the committee chairs. Jeanne Markell and Chuck Casey worked with the legislature and had a positive reception from them this year. We benefited from the success we have had in educational programming. All the budgets are being looked at on the federal level due to the recent disasters.

Liz Templin handed out a handout on the Federal benefits. She explained the Government Pension offset, which could affect your social security payments. Please contact your congress people, if this will affect you. She also encouraged members to explore the NARFE website regarding the NARFE operation offset, due to Hurricane Katrina. The article with information is dated 9/21/05.

**Membership Report** – Diane Damerow and Pat Stumme. Diane shared highlights from their report. Please talk with your colleagues about joining Epsilon Sigma Phi. We had 34 active members this past year and 30 signed up as of today.

**Newsletter** – Sara Croymans and Kathy Olson – We have two newsletters go out electronically each year. We also can send any updates as requested by the board members. If you are receiving the newsletter via mail and have access to email, it would be appreciated if you could receive it by email to reduce postage costs.

**Nominating Committee** – Shirley Barber shared the remaining officers for 2005-2006, which include President – Janet Beyer, Past President – Cindy Petersen, and Naomi Fruechte as Director. The officer candidates are President Elect- Glenice Johnson, Secretary – Andrea Ruesch, Director – Kent Gustafson, and Treasurer – Sheila Craig.

**Professional Improvement** – Rosie Heins indicated that we worked with MAEE to host the professional development opportunity with Chuck Lofy on October 12th and 13th. Epsilon Sigma Phi contributed \$1000 to the cost of the speaker.

**Scholarship** - Roselyn Biermaier indicated that the committee is updating the scholarship guidelines. The new guidelines are printed in the annual report.

**Silent Auction** – We have the same number of auction items as in 2003. More people are joining together to do put together very nice auction offerings. The auction will conclude at 6:50 pm this evening.

The Committee reports were approved.

**Old Business:**

**MAEE and ESP collaboration** – Janet Beyer reported on the two organizations, their mission, and possibilities of working more closely together. It was decided that each organization would have a liaison to each others board to help increase communication and understanding of our missions.

**Audit report** – Kathy Olson and Janet Beyer reviewed the books with Sheila Craig. There had been several recommendations from last year and the changes were made. Chuck Schwartau moved to approve the audit report and Naomi Fruechte seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Elections** - Liz Templin moved to approve a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers. Rosi Heins seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Associate membership** – The board discussed adding an associate membership category, which would allow for Extension workers with 1 to 3 years of service to join and pay \$30 state dues. This would also make them eligible for MEWS scholarships **if** those change to only be available for ESP members. After 3 years of service, they would become full members of ESP and then pay \$60, which would include both the state and national dues. We are looking at ways to reach early career employees. Toni Smith endorsed this change.

**Proposed 2005-2006 budget** –The proposed budget is listed on page 11 of the annual report. Sheila Craig reviewed the various line items. She highlighted the membership goal of 40 members and national meeting zero line item. Cindy Bigger moved to accept the budget and Kia Harries seconded to motion. Motion carried.

**Global/International Chair** –Chuck Schwartau moved that the board drop the Global/ International chairperson position. Marian Anderson seconded the motion. It will be added to a future board meeting agenda, as it will require a by-law change.

**National ESP Development Campaign** – Cindy Petersen highlight the development campaign by National ESP.

**National ESP upcoming meeting** – The dates are November 9-12 and will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Janet Beyer and Sheila Craig will be the voting delegates from Pi chapter. Rod Hamer will represent MN as our distinguished service award recipient.

**Awards Presentation:**

**Meritorious Support Staff Service Award** – Melissa Instenes – Executive Administrative Assistant - Rochester Regional Center

**You've got ESP/ Early Career award** – Rebecca Meyer – REE, 4-H Youth Development – Cloquet Regional Center

**Mid-Career Award** – Tamie Bremseth - Area Program Leader 4-H Youth Development – Marshall Regional Center

**Distinguished Service Award** -Neil Broadwater – REE, Livestock – Rochester Regional Center

**Visionary Leadership Award** - Jeanne Markell, Associate Dean and Director, External Relations

**Mentor Award** - Janet Beyer- REE, Community Youth Development – Rochester Regional Center

**Diversity/ Inclusion Award** - Learning the Language of Money – Shirley Anderson-Porsich and Phyllis Onstad, REE's – Family Development, Family Resource Management

**Teamwork Award** –Serve it up Safely – Roselyn Biermaier, Kathy Brandt, Deb Botzek-Linn, Jean Pitt, and LouAnn Jopp, REE's- Food Safety

**Retiree Awards** – Nancy Lenhart, Joe Neubauer, and Dave Schwartz

**Retiring Board members** – Shirley Barber, Nancy Hegland, and Tom Hovde

**Memorial Service** – Beth Russell and Marian Anderson led us in a memorial service honoring those who have passed away in the past year. Those remembered include: Roland Abraham, Arnold Sandager, Athelene Scheid, Karen Zilliox (wife of Larry), David Noetzel, Duane Schrader and Bill Fenster

**Installation of 2005-2006 Officers** – Shirley Barber

President - Janet Beyer

Past President - Cindy Petersen

President Elect – Glenice Johnson

Secretary – Andrea Ruesch

Treasurer – Sheila Craig

Directors – Naomi Fruechte and Kent Gustafson

Cindy Petersen thanked the membership for their support during the past year. She turned the meeting over to the new President Janet Beyer. Janet presented Cindy with a gift certificate for a hand-woven basket.

**Committee chairs for 2005-2006 include:**

Auction – Colleen Gengler

Awards and Recognition – Cindy Bigger

Global Relations – May not be a need for a chairperson, as indicated by the current chair

History and Archives –

Legislative/Public Issues – Jeanne Markell

Membership – Diane Damerow

Newsletters – Sara Croymans and Kathy Olson

Nominating – Cindy Petersen

Professional Improvement –

Retiree/Life Members – Beth Russell

Scholarship – Roselyn Biermaier

Minnesota will co-host the NEAFCS national meeting September 15-20, 2007 with Wisconsin and Illinois. The conference will be held at the Radisson Riverfront in St Paul. MNEAFSC would appreciate any volunteers to help carryout this task.

Phyllis Onstad moved to adjourn the meeting and Kathy Olson seconded it. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hegland

Secretary

**Epsilon Sigma Phi – Pi Chapter  
Proposed Budget 2006-2007**

**Balance in Checking 9-30-05** **\$3374.36**

<b>Income:</b>	Budget 05-06	Amt Rc'vd	Prpsd 06-07
Membership Dues	\$2400.00	\$2637.00	\$2400
Life Member Donations	600.00	\$265.00	300
Interest	0.00	0.00	0
Nat'l Reim Pres. Wkshp & Vote Del	300.00	300.00	600
Other Income	0.00	300.00	0
U of MN Foundation (MEWS)	100.00	0.00	0
General Fund Auction	0.00		300
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3400.00</b>	<b>\$3502.00</b>	<b>\$3600</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	Budget 05-06	Amt Spent	Prpsd 06-07
Dues	\$1200.00	1445.00	1200
To U of MN Foundation (MEWS)	100.00	0.00	0
Organizational Communication	300.00	202.44	300
President's Workshop	800.00	995.15	300
Nat'l Mtg/Galaxy	0.00	300.00	300
Operating Expenses	150.00	67.40	100
Annual Mtg. - State	200.00	25.00	200
Committees:			
Scholarship	25.00	0.00	25
Professional Development	25.00	0.00	25
Awards	150.00	265.48	200
Silent Auction/Dollar Auction	200.00	34.04	200
Membership	100.00	0.00	100
History & Archives	25.00	0.00	25
Retired Extension Workers	25.00	0.00	25
Legislative Efforts	0.00	0.00	0
International	25.00	0.00	25
Retiree's Directory	0.00	305.70	100
Memorials	25.00	0.00	25
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3350.00</b>	<b>\$3640.21</b>	<b>\$3150</b>

**Balance in checking 8-31-06** **\$3236.15**

**Epsilon Sigma Phi – Pi Chapter  
2005-2006 Treasurer’s Report  
August 31, 2006**

**Balance in Checking 9-30-05** **\$3374.36**

**Income**

Membership Dues	\$2637.00	
37 Annual Memberships @ \$60	\$2220.00	
1 new Annual Membership @67	\$ 67.00	
2 Life Memberships @\$175	\$ 350.00	
Life Member Donations	\$ 265.00	
Mileage Reimbursement Nat’l Meeting	\$ 300.00	
Mileage Reimbursement for JCEP travel	<u>\$ 300.00</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$3502.00</b>

**Expenses**

Dues	\$1445.00	
To U of M Foundation (MEWS)	0.00	
Organizational Communication	\$202.44	
Presidents Workshop (JCEP)	\$995.15	
Nat’l Mtg/Galaxy	\$300.00	
Operating Expenses	\$67.40	
Annual Mtg. – State	\$25.00	
Committees:		
Scholarship	0.00	
Professional Development	0.00	
Awards	\$265.48	
Silent Auction/Dollar Auction	\$34.04	
Membership	0.00	
Retired Extension Workers	0.00	
Legislative Efforts	0.00	
International	0.00	
Retiree’s Directory	\$305.70	
Memorials	0.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$3640.21</b>

**Balance in Checking August 31, 2006** **\$3236.15**

**Savings Account – Balance 9/30/05 = \$1,111.10 + \$5.94 Interest**  
**Balance 8/31/06 = \$1117.04**

**MEWS Fund – August 31, 2006**

Principal	\$106,247.86
Available to spend \$	13,730.67
Total Fund Balance	\$119,978.53
Awarded over past year	\$4,713.73

**2005 – 2006 ESP Presidents Report  
Janet E. Beyer, Pi Chapter President**

**The year in review...**

The Pi Chapter executive board met four times during the year, two face-to-face meetings and two conference calls; committee members conducted their work either via conference call or email; and two newsletters were sent one in the spring and another this fall. Glenice Johnson and I attended the North Central Regional workshop in St. Louis, Missouri in March. Jean Markell attended the PILD conference in April representing both ESP and the Extension organization. Jeanne Markell and Neil Broadwater will be voting delegates at the National ESP meeting November 14 -17 in Annapolis, Maryland.

The board met in December 2005 and set these chapter goals for the year:

**Increase membership**—no surprise to anyone our membership numbers have dropped due to less people in the organization. The membership committee continues to work on increasing the number of state faculty and administrators in Pi Chapter. We are also proposing an associate membership to introduce ESP to those not eligible for full membership hoping they will continue on as members when they have met the requirements.

**Review and update scholarship policies**—the board voted on the committee recommendations and these are now filed with the appropriate channels at the University.

**Explore ways to more fully involve and communicate with retirees in the Pi Chapter**—Neil Broadwater sent out a survey to retirees via email and received feedback that was then used to plan this annual conference. The committee is also working with Extension administration to update the retirees directory and make it available electronically and to coordinate communication with retirees including exploring ways to promote the ESP group meetings that happen around the state and nation.

**Strengthening the partnership with MAEE**—this was a trial year of having a liaison to and from MAEE. It seemed to work out well to keep the lines of communication open and therefore some by-laws changes have been proposed for the membership to vote on at the annual meeting.

**Update policies and procedures**—A final update on these will be brought to the next board meeting, so the results of the annual meeting vote on by-law changes can be included. Basically it is just updating the policies and procedures to reflect all the recent by-law changes.

**Review and update archives**—The board is working with Dave Pace to update the files and keep the archives current.

**Provide minutes and an Executive Summary of all Board meetings to the membership**—This has happened via email, but due to financial constraints we haven't been able to send these out to those who don't have email.

**Maintain a healthy and fiscally managed treasury**—this has been a challenge due to the make-up of our membership. We have a limited budget to work with, but with Sheila Craig's watchfulness, we are still in the "black."

The executive board has been busy this past year, but as in any organization we need everyone to pitch in and help. Please volunteer serve on a committee or if you are asked to contact a colleague to join ESP, or serve in a leadership role please don't hesitate to accept the opportunity. It truly is a great way to learn more about ESP and all that the organization has to offer.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president this past year. The committee chairs, officers and directors provided a wealth of knowledge and made my role as president much easier. I thank them all for their support and I look forward to the year ahead!

**Epsilon Sigma Phi — Pi Chapter  
2006 President Elect Report—Glenice Johnson**

This has been a year of observation, orientation, and participation in preparation for next year's responsibilities as president. It was an opportunity to become better acquainted with current and retired Extension colleagues across the spectrum of capacity areas and administrative positions, as we met for board meetings in person or via conference call.

Attending the JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals) North Central Regional Leadership Workshop, held in St. Louis, MO this spring was an excellent way to "learn the ropes". The conference theme of "Extension's Changing Climate" was very timely and applicable for Minnesota, given the extensive changes in recent years. The ESP session was a full day of in-depth training, including national updates, plans of work, professional and leadership development opportunities, helpful resources (website, handbook, newsletter), membership recruitment and retention, and member services. A general ECOP presentation gave a concise picture of national Extension history, current status, and potential new partnerships and "location" of Extension within USDA.

The challenge of maintaining membership continues to be a concern, both in Minnesota and nationally, as Extension services reorganize, down-size, and streamline their operations. The possibility of an associate membership for newer employees will hopefully attract more members, earlier in their career. Continued collaboration with MAEE will strengthen both entities, as we work cooperatively to enhance professionalism.

I look forward to the coming year and working with my fellow officers and committee chairs—a special "thank you" to so many of you who "re-enlisted" for another year of chairmanship!

Committee Chairs for 2006-2007:

Auction	Colleen Gengler
Awards & Recognition	Cindy Bigger
Global Relations	<i>(past chair, Chuck Schwartau, ?? need for this committee)</i>
History & Archives	David Pace
Legislative/Public Issues	Jeanne Markell
Membership	Diane Damerow & Kia Harries
Newsletter (co-editors)	Sara Croymans & Kathy Olson
Nominating	Janet Beyer
Professional Improvement	Neil Broadwater
Retiree/Life Members	Beth Russell
Scholarship	Roselyn Biermaier

National Website      <http://espnational.org>

## 2005 ESP Committee Reports

### **Audit Committee** — Kathleen Olson & Chuck Schwartau

Kathleen Olson and Chuck Schwartau met with Sheila Craig on September 11, 2006, to review the ESP accounts of the past fiscal year.

We found the accounts in full agreement between the treasurer's books and the bank statements.

We do have two recommendations for the future:

We suggest the billing for printing newsletters and other office services rendered by county or regional offices be run through the appropriate county or University accounting system to have a clear paper trail of all transactions.

Some payments are authorized by e-mails which carry dates, and sometimes by handwritten memo from the President. All such memos should be dated to keep clear paper trails.

We commend the treasurer for clear and accurate accounting of the ESP funds. Her assembly of the records made the audit easy and without question about funds received or expended.

### **Auction Committee** — Colleen Gengler

The on-going objective for this committee is raising funds for the Minnesota Extension Worker's Scholarship (MEWS) Fund via an auction. We are doing the auction every other year. In October 2005, a silent auction was conducted with 28 items bringing \$760 into the MEWS Fund. The University of MN Foundation is the holder of the fund. The other unofficial function this committee does in the "off year" is a dollar auction to support Pi Chapter general operating expenses. That function will be carried out at the 2006 MAEE/ESP Conference

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### **Awards Committee Report**—Cindy Bigger

In May, Neil Broadwater's application to represent Minnesota as our DSA at the national meeting was submitted and accepted. Due to a number of miscalculations on the part of your awards chair, the first deadline for submitting other nominees was missed. This will be remedied in 2007.

After the successful Awards program in 2005, it was thought that 2006 would produce the same result when it in fact did not. Thanks to the tenacity of several of our board members and our President, awards nominations and documentation did come in and an awards program will be held in 2006.

We are very happy to recognize the following individuals in 2006:

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**Distinguished Service Award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mid Career Award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**25 year Tenure Recipients:** \_\_\_\_\_

**International Award Recipient:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Administrative Leadership Award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Members:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Retirees:** \_\_\_\_\_

You didn't think I would tell you ahead of time did you?!!

Congratulations to all the Award Winners in 2006...you are most deserving and ESP is *ESP*ecially proud of you!

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## **Global Relations (International) Report** —Chuck Schwartau

The Global Relations committee activity this year was minimal. Contacts were made with the international offices in the University of Minnesota to get a better idea of what assistance and opportunities exist through those offices. The finding was those offices focus on campus-based faculty and degree-seeking students who want or need the international experience.

Contacts with other states found most of their work has been on sharing with current clientele the advantages of thinking about global impacts of what they do and making them more aware of how activities in other parts of the world affect them. What happens to markets for products and the prices as well as availability of inputs is also affected by international activity. This has been the focus of global programming in several states.

In the area of personal, global experiences, it still depends heavily on personal interest and initiative. The national ESP website lists several organizations that welcome Extension staff participation, but it has to be done at your own initiative, and seldom by invitation or by official University participation.

We have had a small handful of Minnesota Extension Educators who have embarked on international programs themselves this year. Among them are Wayne Schoper and Tim Dolan who took a personal agricultural study tour in Brazil. I am also aware of a group of family relations educators who will be taking part in a Mexican study tour as part of a program partnership in family education curriculum development.

The rewards are great when you locate opportunities and take advantage of them. Keep watching and looking. Then when one catches your eye, work toward approval to participate, even if it has to be on your own time. You won't regret the experience .

## **History and Archives Committee** — David E. Pace

We have reviewed the file folders and note books to learn just what method or format has been used over the years to preserve select information. As one can imagine a wide variety of methods has been used including but not limited to: by year and by categories, IE Membership lists or minutes. Some of which is confusing

The board has determined the format and way of placing new information in the files and has asked the officers and committee chairs to provide copies to the History and Archives Committee.

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Shelia Craig and I ( with other volunteers - here's your chance) will begin to place the current information in the files this coming year.

..Some years and categories are missing...If you are aware of ESP Historical Information...other than what..... is filed in Coffey Hall, pleased let me know.

## **Legislative (Public Issues) Committee Report** — Jeanne Markell

Dr. Bev Durgan's first legislative session as Dean and Director for Extension was successful on a number of accounts: 1) Legislators gave a positive reception during our state capitol visits and other meetings, with more interest expressed on what Extension is "doing" than on "how" it is being done; 2) Funding for the University of Minnesota's capital request, while not the complete ask, was significant. This helped Extension as a major outreach unit of the university; 3) Extension's legislative advocacy efforts progressed with the inclusion of more staff and volunteers than ever before, including a successful Extension Day at the Capitol.

In every even numbered year, the legislative focus is on bonding and some supplemental programmatic requests for state agencies and the university. Extension staff and supporters joined hundreds of other U of M friends in asking the state to invest in higher education's infrastructure for a better future in the state. Extension Day at the Capitol was an opportunity for Extension advisory members and program participants to join Extension regional directors "on the Hill". The evaluations from this event provided strong encouragement to continue that activity for 2007.

At the federal level the conversations continue about the inevitable challenges to formula funding for Extension (Smith-Lever) and Experiment Station (Hatch) federal funds. Our Minnesota efforts in Washington included several rounds of meetings with congressional delegates and staff by Extension administration. . In April, a group of nine staff and citizen advisory committee members participated in a national Public Issues



**Nominating Committee** — Cindy Petersen

The following Epsilon Sigma Phi members have agreed to have their names put into nomination for:

- President-elect: Kay Stanek
- Director (2 year term): Sue Fischer

The elected members will join the current leadership team of:

President: Glenice Johnson

.....Secretary: Andrea Ruesch.....

Treasurer (Appointed by Board): Sheila Craig

Director: Kent Gustafson

Past President: Janet Beyer

Thank you to the retiring leadership team members:

Director: Naomi Fruechte

Past President: Cindy M. Petersen

**Professional Improvement Committee** — Neil Broadwater

Based on the fact so few Extension retirees attended the Annual ESP/MAEE conference last year, I sent out a survey last fall to those retirees for which we had e-mail addresses. Over 30 responses were received. Based on this unscientific survey, I summarized the results as follows:

- Some retirees are meeting in groups, some have presentations and for other it's just a social thing.
- .....~~• Most retirees feel a real disconnect with present day Extension Service.....~~
- Most respondents would like to get up to date information on what's happening in Extension and how it's going
- Most want as much up to date information on benefits as possible.
- Most want social time to reconnect with former friends, colleagues and present staff they know.
- If they are to be invited to Annual Conference, they want to feel welcomed, to be given more time for socializing with others, and to be given updates on what is going on. They want to know their friends are coming so they will then want to come.

.....  
This information was sent to your ESP President who shared it with the Board. The information was also shared with Jeannie Markell, Associate Dean. The survey results were used to help plan the 2006 ESP Annual meeting including the ESP luncheon activity, professional improvement breakout sessions and break time to allow socializing with other retirees and present employees of the Extension Service. The professional improvement concurrent sessions were planned in cooperation with MAEE.

**ESP Scholarship Committee—Roselyn Biermaier**

Since our last annual meeting \$4713.73 has been awarded for ESP Scholarships. This is a slight increase over last year. More of the funds did go for ESP conferences.

With the new promotion and documentation policy the committee is hoping to have more applicants in the coming years. This may also increase our membership since the scholarships are awarded to Pi chapter members of ESP.

Committee members are Pat Borich, Naomi Fruechete, Phyllis Onstad and Roselyn Biermaier



