

Epsilon Sigma Phi

Pi Chapter

Board Minutes

March 28, 2011
Conference Call

Members on the phone:

Toni Smith, Marcia Woeste, Becky Harrington, Gwen Gmeinder, Jeanne Markell, Eric Vogel, Donna Geiser, Bob Mugaas, Jerry Tesmer, Cindy Bigger, Kent Gustafson, Janet Beyer, Kia Harries

President Toni Smith called the meeting to order at 10:03.

The Secretary's report is available on the website for review. Motion made by Gwen to approve minutes, second by Donna. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was sent by email.

Jerry added a few points including the renewal of a CD for 11 months at 1% interest and in review of the activity in the past – very few transactions occur from March to October. A point was made that when the budget is proposed in the fall to be realistic about the income generation to support board work. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit made by Cindy, second by Becky. Motion carried.

Committee Updates:

- **Archives:** Kent – the photo included in the last newsletter received several responses to identify the person. The first response was received within 30 minutes of the newsletter being posted. There are not many photos in the archives, it is mostly print material. If anyone has photos, please contribute them to the archives.
- **Fundraising:** Becky – clarified that Silent Auction funds raised for MEWS are not tracked through the ESP account, but rather through the MEWS account in the U of M Foundation, and therefore do not show up on the Treasurer's report. A question was raised if there should be an update of the MEWS fund included in the Treasurer's report.
- **Staff Development:** Bob – On April 18th a retirement webinar will be held. Four former Extension staff members who have successfully transitioned into retirement will share as a panel. Each panelist will have a chance to speak and all will answer questions. This will be a webinar and conference call, which will hold up to 98 participants.
- **Employee Organizations of the Future Sub-committee:** Jeanne – interviewed founders of MAEE and received good history and information. Next step is to develop some scenarios of what change might look like for ESP & MAEE. A May 11th joint meeting will occur with MAEE & ESP for more discussion. Jeanne Markell of ESP and Kay Lovett of MAEE co-chair this committee.

- **Fall ESP Meeting discussion**: what format should this meeting take? Should it be held as own event and linked to the Dean's retirement luncheon? How can we increase the attendance of retirees? Would a poll to retirees help with the decision and possible location? It will also be important to connect with staff who may be electing to take retirement options with an invitation to continue membership or join ESP.
- **Development & recruitment**: a link was provided to the Wisconsin ESP website to learn more about how they invite donors and donations. Matt Mussel has surveyed retirees and will be asked to share his information with the ESP board in the future as the information is interesting and insightful. A question was raised if Matt can help make the website more donation friendly? The Extension intranet has a development section with information on on-line giving. Any ideas and suggestions are welcome.
- **Newsletter**: Thank you for submissions. Comments include: photos added to the newsletter were helpful; easy to read; very well done. Next newsletter – be thinking of creative ways to provide committee updates. The next issue will be due prior to the annual meeting.
- **Cost of phone conference option**: Frequency of meeting calls has increased, for a shorter length of time on call. These are not “free” calls – the caller has the cost from their phone (or minutes). After the April 18th Retirement webinar and call, this will be evaluated if they are useful to the employee and for future options. The benefit of a call is increased work time (available to work most of the day, as opposed to travel).
- **Other discussion included**:
 - ⇒ A question was raised of when the joint ESP/MAEE meeting is held in St Cloud on May 11th, should there be a reimbursement for expense. No discussion occurred.
 - ⇒ A question was raised if retirees would come to the Arboretum for an ESP meeting ? Would staff if the meeting was not held during Fall Program Conference?
 - ⇒ Retiree newsletter will go out in May from Gwen. A couple of questions might be included for retirees to respond to. What will be attractive to members to make a meeting be a priority?
 - ⇒ At May 11th meeting, really examine what is needed at the ESP annual meeting. Scenarios for a meeting might include:
 - ◇ ESP event – including a professional development opportunity, meeting and Dean's reception at the Arboretum.
 - ◇ Could we play a leadership role with localized groups that meet throughout the state – join by webinar.
 - ◇ Consider ways to utilize the ESP website more and allow retirees to learn more and stay connected.
 - ⇒ Membership memos – Toni intends to do more frequently to keep ESP in front of members as much as possible

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 11 in St Cloud with a portion of the day held in joint meeting with MAEE.

Respectfully submitted,
Kia Harries