

Epsilon Sigma Phi

Pi Chapter

Board Minutes

**Tuesday, February 23, 2010
Conference Call**

Present on call:

Kent Gustafson, Kia Harries, Neil Broadwater, Phyllis Onstad, Marcia Woeste, Toni Smith, Gwen Gmeinder, Sue Fischer, Tami Bremseth, Donna Geiser, Bob Mugaas, Jeannie Markel, Kim Asche, Jerry Tesmer

1. President Marcia Woeste called the conference call committee meeting to order at approximately 9:15 am. There were no additions to the agenda.
2. Secretary's Report – Sara Croymans; the minutes of the November 12, 2010 board meeting were sent to members prior to call and were also available on the website; Sue Fischer moved & Gwen Gmeinder seconded to accept the secretary's report. Motion passed
3. Treasurer's Report – Jerry Tesmer; the treasurer's report was emailed to members on 2/3/2010; Jerry shared that we gained one life member, one associate member and one regular member so we've exceeded our goal; a CD is coming due March 19, 2010 so he recommends reinvesting in another CD for another 8-9 months; The report will be subject to audit.
4. JCEP Conference Report – Toni; sent a seven page overview of her JCEP Conference experience to the board on 2/9/1; she felt it was a good investment to send the President Elect; question about support for PILD; should we have an ESP membership Memo or Blog to increase communication.
5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Membership -- Kia Harries; had sent mid December letter to all recent retirees inviting them to become life time members; she has not had any response; she will resend this again at a non-holiday time; 45 full members, 3 associate & 1 new life member (Jerry Wright) with approximately 127 life members; brochure has been easy to send out to people; Kia will add committee information to the brochure prior to it going out; Bev Durgan did join after Kia sent a personal note; Membership Goal was 50
 - b. Legislative -- Cindy Bigger; Cindy was not on the call; Cindy had sent Marcia an email with information from Kathy Murphy about the impact of furloughs on the high three year salary of federal employees; Jeannie Markell saw an article in the NARFE magazine that indicated that the \$250 stimulus tax credit Social Security recipients received in 2009 has now been extended to federal employees (CSRS only, FERS should have gotten as they receive Social Security), but that needs to be done at tax time; Toni will write a note that will be sent to membership about this information.

- c. Awards and Recognition – Tami Bremseth; all of the national award recognition is due March 1; working with Janet Beyer to ensure Ruby recognition is submitted for Dorothy Freeman; others who were recognized were invited to submit information if they met the criteria.
 - d. Fundraising -- Donna Geiser/Becky Harrington; Donna shared the silent auction occurs every other year; since we are short money perhaps it should be done every year; in 2009 we made only \$200; maybe we should set goals for number of contributions from each district; maybe it should be promoted as a “scholarship auction” ... indicating where the funds go – it doesn’t go to operating funds; or maybe where the funds goes should alternate each year; Kim Asche volunteered to assist on the committee; Marcia could assist as ex-officio; Toni suggested that with a large number of life members a special push should be sent to them to donate & to attend & bid; Provide ideas on possible donations, such as weekend at a cabin, boat rides, lunch with the Dean, etc.; Kia shared the Dollar Auction can raise a couple of hundred dollars on a few items that several people are interested in – so people only have to put in a couple of dollars; Committee will continue with brainstorming – send any ideas to Donna.
 - e. Scholarship -- Phyllis Onstad; six scholarships are still available through June 30; since July 1, 2009 - \$2355.16 has been approved for scholarships which leaves a balance of \$1889.60 through June 30 – with an application deadline of April 1; if money is not used we still have access to the dollars; Phyllis will send a short memo to Toni to be sent out to members encouraging them to apply for scholarships.
 - f. History and Archives -- Kent Gustafson; Kent reminded committees to continue sending him any special reports or committee reports so they can be added to the archives, in addition to the Treasurer’s & Secretary’s reports; goal to have all of the files redone by August meeting.
 - g. Life Members/Retirees -- Gwen Gmeinder; Gwen requested suggestions/ideas for a retiree spring reception with Dean Durgan; Gwen also indicated that the Extension Retiree newsletter will be sent out late April to approximately 210 retirees and she welcomes any articles or information – send to her by March 25; Donna Geiser will send Gwen a short article about the opportunity to donate items to the silent auction; Gwen also requested any feedback on the blog used for the November issues of the retirement newsletter – no thoughts were shared; Neil asked about the system to notify people when retirees pass away; currently there is no formal system, sometimes family or friends notify Bobby Roberts, sometimes Gwen, sometimes to a former co-worker & then it is sent out in several informal ways.
 - h. Professional Improvement -- Bob Mugaas; MAEE events coming up in April – is there a possibility of dovetailing some ESP professional improvement at those events? Is there a possibility of dovetailing something onto the Spring Retiree Reception (typically held in June)? Using space at the Arboretum with their exhibit on power would be a possibility; co-sponsoring the MAEE event is also an option; Kim Asche will work with Bob Mugaas on fall professional improvement details.
 - i. Global Relations -- Tim Dolan; no report
6. MAEAA Liaison Reports – Toni Smith & Kim Asche; Kim reported that MAEE will hold their April 15 staff development – a few regions are doing it in person & one region is doing it via technology; the furlough topic is being addressed;
7. Old Business
- a. Chapter Website Update – Neil; asks everyone to send reminders for items that should be posted – deadlines, new members names so the rosters can be updated; history items or old photos, etc.
 - b. 2010 Annual Meeting

- c. National Meeting, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, October 12-15; Neil has considered attending but no commitment at this time.
 - d. JCEP expenses – Toni shared that the expenses were \$1122.87; Toni received a \$400 MEWS scholarship; \$300 was received from national; & \$400 was designated at the last meeting from savings; Toni indicated she would cover the remaining \$122 unless there are dollars available later; Jerry will send Toni a \$700 check (\$400 from budget & \$300 from National).
8. New Business
- a. Newsletter -- Heidi Haugen; the board discussed that at the next meeting we need to set the date that the newsletter should go out & a list of articles with due dates; we've normally had two newsletters per year with the first one going out shortly after the annual meeting so the board and committees could be announced; the second newsletter will be sent prior to the annual meeting.
9. Reminder of future board meeting dates:
May 13: 9-11, conference call
August 9; 10-2, face to face meeting on campus
10. Newsletter items – Toni will collect short articles on the following and add the ESP brand to be send out to the membership:
- \$250 tax credit for CSRS employees (Jeannie will send to Toni)
 - Scholarships available (Phyllis will send to Toni)
 - Issue about the impact of furlough on the high-three

The conference call was adjourned by President Marcia Woeste at 10:32 am.

Minutes by Sara Croymans, Secretary