

Epsilon Sigma Phi

Pi Chapter

Board Minutes

**Thursday, January 27, 2011
Conference Call**

Present on the call:

Toni Smith, Becky Harrington, Sara Croymans, Marcia Woeste, Tim Dolan, Phyllis Onstad, Gwen Gmeinder, Tami Bremseth, Jerry Tesmer, Kent Gustafson, Kia Harries, Janet Beyer, Jeannie Markel, Eric Vogel

Meeting Called to Order

- President Toni Smith called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.
- Toni welcomed everyone to the call, conducted a roll call and requested any additions to the agenda.

Conference Call Ground Rules

- Toni proposed the following conference call ground rules: ask others to speak louder if needed; state your name when you speak; keep phone muted.

Review of Secretary Minutes: Sara Croymans

- The November 8, 2010 Board meeting minutes are posted on the web page - <http://www.extension.umn.edu/esp>. Thank you to Marcia Woeste for acting as secretary.
- Gwen Gmeinder moved and Kia Harries second to accept the minutes as printed on the web site. Motion passed.

Review of Treasurer's Report: Jerry Tesmer

- The treasurer's report had been emailed out to board members prior to the call.
- Jerry Tesmer shared that National dues were paid on 39 renewing members @ \$40 and 6 new members @ \$45 each. There was one life member at \$200. We also have one associate member which is not reported to National.
- The ESP CD will come due in February; it is currently worth \$5,290.05. Community Resource Bank has four special rates which are not guaranteed until February 19th, but should be in the ballpark. (11 months 1.10%; 23 months 1.40%; 37 months 1.60%; and 59 months 2.0%). There is a one time bump option if rates go up. Jerry checked with a Wells Fargo representative and their rates are lower. Jerry recommends that we continue with the 11 month CD at Community Resource bank. Marcia Woeste moved and Gwen Gmeinder second that we move ahead with renewing the CD at Community Resource Bank for 11 months. Motion passed
- Question for discussion. Should we post treasurer reports online? If there is no identifying information on the location of the accounts that could be used fraudulently it was decided to post the Treasurer's reports online similar to how the secretary's reports are posted online. No vote required.

Follow up report on two key components of work from the November retreat

Toni reviewed the priorities of the ESP-PI Chapter for 2011 which were taken from the November 2010 board minutes and rewritten as goals for the organization:

1. Increase opportunities for interaction with retiree members of ESP.
 - Board members volunteer to attend retiree regional retirement gatherings and ask a common set of questions that will assist the board in determining their preferred interaction with the organization and their perspective on building the organization.
 2. Explore new opportunities to increase communication with all members of ESP.
 - Explore increased mailing of membership memos
 - Ask committees to think of options for interaction
 3. Further refine what it means to be the EXENSION HONOR SOCIETY.
 - What are the ramifications of that title?
 - How does it play into the future of the organization?
 4. Examine membership recruitment efforts to enable the most effective thorough and inclusive invitation and initiation process.
 5. Explore new alternatives for the fall ESP conference.
 - Strategies to increase participation.
 - Possibly link it with the Dean's Retiree gathering or a staff development day at the arboretum.
 6. Establish a committee with MAEE to explore options of continued collaboration in the future.
 - Establishment of the subcommittee entitled "Extension Employee Organizations of the Future"
- Board members are encouraged to contact Toni with any changes in wording, additions, deletions, etc. and she will finalize the goals to be printed in the next newsletter.

MAEE/ESP Committee to explore: Extension Employee Organizations of the Future: (ESP representatives) Bob Mugaas, Phyllis Onstad, Sue Fisher, Jeanne Markell, Toni Smith, and (MAEE representatives) Kelly Kunkel, Kay Lovett, David Nelson and Judith Conway.

- The group held a conference call. Their first meeting will be held on January 24.
- Committee will present recommendations to the joint board meeting in April.
- Co-chairs – Kay Lovett & Jeannie Markell
 - Focus – address Extension Employee Organizations of the Future
 - Goal is not to alter ESP or MAEE; but to define what our organizations would look like to be helpful, useful, rewarding for Extension Employees & Retirees – specifically for ESP & MAEE (not EFCC or CAPA)
 - The committee plans to talk with some of the charter members of MAEE & ESP for input (from 1972- 73); what is most needed now? How to best use limited available resources in a way that is most proactive for all involved?
 - The committee will collect more data of current membership, history, etc.
- Are other states addressing similar issues? Toni shared that on a call with ESP Presidents from the 11 north central region states and similar challenges were discussed
- Kia Harries was invited to join this committee since she is the incoming president for ESP

Discussion about "RETURN on your ESP Dues Investment":

Toni asked each committee chair to identify a possible winter newsletter article which address the "return on your ESP Dues Investment":

- Awards & Recognition – Tami Bremseth they could report the names of those who received awards in the fall and are now being submitted to national
- Fundraising - Becky Harrington (& Donna Geiser) will consult with the committee
- Global Relations – Tim Dolan will develop a short article for the winter newsletter about Extension Opportunities to work in other countries with some specific examples

- History & Archives – Kent Gustafson indicated they could 1) feature past Ruby Award winners (Pat Borich & Dorothy Freeman, Rolland Abraham & others; 2) feature examples of program impact statements that had received state and national awards; this would be a great connection to the retirees – featuring some of the past leaders & connecting to them in their lives now
- Membership - Janet Beyer & Eric Vogel – ideas from national meeting; 1) looking at starting a life-member blog on the web page – so will work with Neil (as web master) and Jeannie (as blogger consultant); 2) re-doing the membership invitation so it can be sent out on line rather than hard copy
- Professional Improvement – Bob Mugaas was not on call but Toni had talked with him but willing to work with any future professional improvement plans
- Retiree Life Members – Gwen Gmeinder indicated that retirees may look to ESP for assistance with transition to retirement; looking for real life stories around transition; also sharing how retirees have benefited from the ESP scholarships
- Scholarship – Phyllis Onstad thought it would be helpful to have scholarship recipients share how they have used their scholarship money to spur future applications; There are 13- \$500 scholarships available through June 30 – four have been accepted so nine scholarships are yet available. There was discussion on whether scholarship reports should be shared with the membership via the list serve or summarized in the newsletter

Toni will share the newsletter deadline in the near future.

Email distribution - Approximately 40 members do not have email. Do they have access to the Internet? Toni will get the names of these individuals. Could retirees with emails assist with connecting with those on the list who don't have it? Is it that they prefer to receive snail mail vs. email? What is the cost to mail 40 copies?

Updates on attendance at JCEP and ESP National Meeting

- JCEP – in San Antonio – attending Nancy Hegland, Nicole Pokorney, Suzanne Driessen, and Toni Smith will attend; associations give \$300, Toni also plans to apply for a MEWS scholarship
- ESP National Meeting - Kia has submitted an OMK session proposal so is requesting some financial assistance to attend from the OMK National office

Additional Discussion Items

- Jeannie Markell & Kay Lovett – follow up work on sub committee
- Marcia Woeste – nominating committee – start thinking of potential officer candidates
- Extension Fall Conference - will we do something separate at the Arboretum or at the Dean's Retirement event?

Adjourn

At 10:12 am, motion was made by Jerry Tesmer and second by Tim Dolan to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes by Sara Croymans, Secretary