

# Epsilon Sigma Phi

## *Pi Chapter*

### Board Minutes

**March 10, 2006**  
**Conference call**

**Members present:** President Janet Beyer, President Elect Glenice Johnson, Secretary Andrea Ruesch, Treasurer Sheila Craig, Rosalyn Biermaier, Cindy Bigger, Naomi Fruechte, Colleen Gengler, Kent Gustafson, Jeanne Markell, and Cindy Peterson

**Call to Order – President Janet Beyer**

President Beyer called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Additions to agenda** – Going for the Gold added under Old Business and Annual Conference with MAEE added under New Business.

**Approval of agenda** – Sheila Craig/Glenice Johnson moved and seconded to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report** – Cindy Bigger/Glenice Johnson moved and seconded to approve the Secretary's Report from the December Board Meeting. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Shelia Craig sent a written report via e-mail.

Balance in checking on March 10, 2006 is \$4,403.82. Since the December meeting there has been income of \$360 and expenses of \$1,687.40. Balance in savings on February 28, 2006 is \$1,113.16.

Budget Update based on annual budget – one correction: in December it was reported that \$585 was still needed in the income fund, that number should be \$685.

Overall budget discussion – we're whittling away on funds, cutting our budget close. The number of life memberships versus annual memberships is a factor. We are not generating as many donations from life members as we had hoped.

President Beyer – can we find out who are retirees who were ESP members but not Lifetime Members? Would they pay a fee of approximately \$20 so they can receive newsletters, etc.? Should we make a list of new members to recruit? We need to outline a promotion plan to recruit administrators and state folks. We have the Membership Committee to work on this. Treasurer Craig reviewed our membership list compared to other years and there is only one annual member from last year who did not renew membership.. Treasurer Craig has membership records a few years back of folks who were members and are not annual/life members now. She will pass this along to Membership Committee. We had a discussion about sending a letter to these non-renewing members to recruit them back.

Cindy Peterson/Naomi Fruechte moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

**JCEP by President Beyer and President-Elect Johnson** - the chapter booming with membership is The Ohio State University. Indiana has reached the point of almost equal Annual Members and Lifetime Members. Everyone is struggling with the same thing, membership. Minnesota is on the opposite end of the scale as

we don't have as many people working the system. We're struggling to get administration and state members. Our number of members affects awards too. Jeanne Markell was asked for any insight as to how we can promote it at our state level? She responded with pointing out the number of changes in our state leadership team, there are a lot of new faces in the last five years and they didn't grow up in the system and they don't have that same sense of history as a lot of us do. There was a push this fall for membership, especially around the Auction. Dean and Director Bev Durgan is someone we can and should get! Two ESP meetings ago there was some discussion about the possible reality of a merger of ESP and MAEE. Money is an issue and is there enough difference between those two organizations? Discussion – ESP was a big deal and you used to be invited to join. Another different piece was ESP tracked your federal benefits and a lot of people aren't on federal benefits anymore. Another respect is retired folks and where they fit in. MAEE is now open to a broader base. There are scarce resources of money and time and a smaller membership pool, are we facing the inevitable?

President Beyer – there are four generations in the workforce now, and we need to appeal to all of them. The JCEP general workshop presentations were very good. President Elect Johnson reported on the ECOP presentation. There are a number of new directors across the U.S. and the number of those who didn't come up through the ranks or have Extension backgrounds has increased. Extension is changing and acknowledging that change. Audiences are changing, reporting is changing and there is genuine concern that it needs to change. It was somewhat of a bleak message. Discussion by the Board. Is part of it that Minnesota has made so many changes and others haven't? People need to get involved, attend JCEP or PILD!

**Awards by Cindy Bigger** – national awards deadline is today. We have had pretty lengthy conversations on awards with MAEE about not doing much duplication, that didn't happen. We're connected to a national organization and we cannot change ours! MAEE is sending forth several recommendations to their Board about awards so that they don't duplicate Dean's, ESP or Section Awards. MAEE is looking at doing some real different types of things and is hoping to have some changes implemented this fall. There are deadlines this month for awards applications. National is not getting in the number of lists or applications as they have in the past. One choice is regional recognition and another is to submit for national recognition which is a step report. Are we submitting anybody? People have been contacted, we're waiting to hear back from possible candidates. It's not the easiest process, there are examples up on the website. Challenge from President Beyer to put an awards discussion on the May meeting agenda. We had a good slate of applicants last year. Everyone thinks about who would be good for awards. Cindy will send out another list of awards.

**Auction by Colleen Gengler** – we're currently on the every other year plan for the Silent Auction. Two years ago we had the Dollar Auction for raising funds for our ESP treasury. Do we want to think about doing the Dollar Auction in the opposite year for the treasury? A lot of that decision depends on where we're at for location, the schedule, etc. Discussion – are there enough people at our Annual Meeting to do a Dollar Auction? Maybe it's not necessarily done at the Annual Meeting, might be at a time when more people are there such as for a banquet, or meal, etc. Wasn't it our plan to do the fund-raiser for the MEWS fund one year and then treasury the other year? That was probably decided unofficially? Do we want to make that official? President Beyer will check with Toby Spanier as MAEE Past President to see if we can include it as part of the Annual Conference this year. This committee is responsible for the MEWS fund as outlined in the By-Laws, and did the treasury fund fund-raiser, but how would that work on a more official basis? Does the By-Laws say anything about it? Colleen will work with Cindy Peterson for Annual Meeting timeframe and scheduling.

**Global** – no report. President Beyer reported that at JCEP a lot of things are happening at the national level and states planning things. She will touch base with Chuck Schwartau. It tends to be a big thing with retirees. We'll try to get some items in the newsletter on this.

**History/Archives written report by Dave Pace** - we do have a Historical File Guide for the Pi Chapter, what should be included, etc. Secretary Ruesch will type it up and send it out as Officers and Committee Chairs will have duties based on the document. The document lists what should be included in the archives. We're missing some pieces and there are bunches of papers to file. Treasurer Craig and Naomi Fruechte volunteered to help with it. President Beyer, Secretary Ruesch and Treasurer Craig will submit the pieces that they need to have in. Annual Report and Newsletters need to be filed each year. Work will be started and progress will be reported in May.

**Legislative by Jeanne Markell** - she just got back from Washington, D.C. with a FNEP trip. It's the same scene on the federal budget. The President's report is to change the federal formula funding for Experiment Stations. He'd like to replace formula funds on the research side for competitive money. The concern is that if this goes through for Experiment Stations, Extension will be next. Last year the fight was successful, Congress fought it and the legislation did not pass. But they're coming back with it again this year. It looks like it will be level funding again this year and there are recommendations for some slight increases. On the state

side there are no particular Extension items on the table. This presents a good news/bad news scenario. This is a bonding year so we'll be supporting the University's requests. March 22 is the Extension Day at the Capitol along with the University Day at the Capitol. People are encouraged to come. Extension's legislative standpoint is to continue to build goodwill. There are still questions about what the future holds, any more cuts? Will we return to a county staffing plan? For the most part we're through the worse of the fights we've had the last couple years. The Dean is also now the Director of the Experiment Stations so she's putting some time into the backlash from the commodity groups on the renaming of the college. The Farm Bureau report on production agriculture was not positive for the University. The University did a response. It's been helpful to have Dean Durgan in the Extension leadership position with her ag background and her history with the commodity groups. Discussion – the article from Farm Bureau may start appearing in other publications. To this point they haven't gotten much media attention. We're working quietly behind the scenes on the family relations/development pieces from a few years back. Jeanne Markell and Toni Smith are going to PILD and representing us there. A lot of ECOP talk will happen at PILD. With the proposed legislative change of making Experiment Stations funds competitive, there would be the chaos of competing for funds. Currently Minnesota's level of funding is \$13 million. Let's hope it doesn't take hold.

**Membership** – discussion was previously held and information will be passed along to the committee.

**Newsletter** – reports of two people who have not received the newsletter. President Beyer will follow-up on that. If anyone else knows of someone not receiving the newsletter, please let President Beyer know.

**Nominating** – no report.

**Professional Improvement** – a survey from Neil was sent out and he has gotten about 20 surveys back. A report will be pulled together the end of the month and once it's put together, President Beyer will send it out. We'll look at it at our May meeting. Jeanne Markell reported Extension Administration is looking to tap retirees for involvement in committees and projects. Anyway that ESP would like to collaborate is welcome. Gwen Gmeinder is putting it the information together. There was a suggestion of having a session at the Annual Meeting where the Dean and Director and other Administrators could do a workshop with retirees giving them a full update. We used to do that quite consistently. This recommendations will be placed on the May agenda.

**Retiree** – we'll ask Liz Templin to have information for the newsletter. Nothing new from the NARF magazine.

**Scholarship by Rosalyn Biermaier** - how do we advertise that we have the scholarship for ESP members? Is it a way to help recruit more members? President Beyer will do a write-up on this topic for Extension Weekly. This is a great time to get it promoted as people are starting to plan for professional improvement opportunities and annual meetings for associations.

### **Old Business**

**Review Goals and Establishing Timeline** – we reviewed the list of goals established at the December meeting:

Increase membership, especially Regional Directors and State Administration, and to make personal contacts with potential members – Membership Committee with report at May Board Meeting.

Review and update scholarship policies – Scholarship Committee, completed.

Explore ways to more fully involve and communicate with retirees in the Pi Chapter – Retiree Committee with report at May Board Meeting.

Complete distribution of an updated, accurate electronic directory – President Beyer and Melissa Innes.

Maintain a healthy and fiscally managed treasury – all.

Explore strengthening of partnership with MAEE, evaluate the trial year of having a liaison to and from MAEE and take the proposed language to the membership at Annual Meeting as a By-Law change – President Beyer with report at May Board Meeting.

Update policies and procedures to be presented at Pi Chapter Annual Meeting – officers.

Review and update archives. Have all officers and committee chairs file the correct reports annually in the archives – History/Archive Committee and officers with report at May Board Meeting.

Maintain updates on Pi Chapter members that hold group gatherings/meetings around the state – officers.

Provide minutes and an Executive Summary of all Board meetings to the membership – Secretary Ruesch.

**Going for the Gold** – brought up at the National Meeting. Going for the Gold revolves around pledges and money for the \$250,000 campaign for scholarship and to support the work we do. What they want from us is a list of our membership so they can send out the correspondence for Going for the Gold. This information will be put this in the newsletter.

**New Business**

**Spring Newsletter** – discussion on what to include in the Spring Newsletter. The following will be included: Executive Summary of the meeting minutes from December and today, national meeting summary, JCEP summary, Going for the Gold, Annual Conference dates for fall 2006, and Committee Chairs each write up a short report. Deadline is March 26 for newsletter articles. We also discussed including a list of those who have passed away since the Annual Meeting.

**Annual Meeting** – there will be more to report in May as MAEE Past President Toby Spanier is looking at facilities at this point. We'll be sure to get the dates out in the newsletter so people can hold the date. President Beyer will be sure to include Neil and the Professional Improvement Committee in the discussions.

**Adjournment**

Cindy Peterson/Sheila Craig moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting**

May 23, 2006 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. with the location to be determined. President Beyer will secure a location and let everyone know. Agenda items at this time include: awards discussion, nominations and Committee Chairs are asked to submit written reports.