

# Epsilon Sigma Phi

## *Pi Chapter*

### Board Minutes

#### ESP Board Conference Call March 3, 2009

**Present:** Neil Broadwater, Chuck Schwartau, Jerry Tesmer, Sue Fisher, Janet Beyer, Bob Mugaas, Phyllis Onstad, Kent Gustafson, Tim Dolan

Neil Broadwater called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Jerry Tesmer moved and Bob Mugaas seconded we accept the agenda as printed and sent. Carried

Minutes of previous meeting were sent out. Sue moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Carried

Treasurer's Report – Jerry highlighted some updates on the printed report. There was a correction made between the MEWS fund and a life member donation. This was noted in previous minutes. The result was a \$200 donation to MEWS given from members with their dues last fall. Membership dues came in quite a bit higher than expected due to a few more members and extra life members. This also resulted in higher expense for national dues submitted. CD has been renewed at \$5111 until next July. JCEP expenses are still outstanding with a portion of that being reimbursed from national. Most of the state expense comes from the MEWS fund. There will be a modest newsletter expense in the near future. Neil accepted the report as submitted subject to later audit.

Marcia submitted a written report from the JCEP conference in San Diego. The ethics program was excellent. It provoked a lot of thought by participants. About 150 participated in the conference. ESP had 19 delegates present. The ESP website has changed to reflect a new marketing plan adopted. Neil mentioned the award certificates for chapters are now on-line so they can get them readily rather than send for them. There is a 10% membership increase goal. We have about 3 times as many life members as active members in MN, but this varies widely around the regions. There are about 6000 national ESP members out of a potential of nearly 17,000. The ESP website has all the deadlines we need to know for program participation.

Neil is not planning on PILD. The national meeting is in Fargo this fall. There are funds budgeted but so far we do not know of anyone planning to attend. It is scheduled close to at least two other national meetings so some are having scheduling problems.

The question was asked about a fall program conference. So far nothing is known about if or when a conference will be held and what impact it may have on our annual meeting.

Kia sent Neil a membership committee report. She reports 36 renewed members, 7 new members, 2 new life members and 3 associate members for a total of 48 members. There are 6 previous members who have not renewed.

**Legislative** – Toni Smith sent a report. Encourage everyone to get on the legislative network to keep up to date on legislative activity. Extension Day at the Capitol is March 25. The target audience is citizens.

**Awards and Recognition** – Dorothy Freeman’s nomination for state DSA and Ruby Award has been sent. Please be thinking about potential nominees for our own awards next fall. We should look to some of our past state award winners as potential national nominees. It is a 2-page nomination form for most awards so not too difficult or time consuming to fill out. Volunteer or Janet will be calling. Sue Fisher volunteered to help.

**Fund-raising** – no report

Scholarship – Phyllis met with Matt Mussell who let her know the MEWS fund is older than the 4-H Foundation! He suggested we promote more of the small gift component that is available. Small gifts can be made any time. We should then be asking anytime as well. All donations get a thank you from Dean Durgan and the Foundation. We might want to do a listing once a year recognizing all donors. The committee met via conference call (between Pat Borich tee times!). They discussed options for retirees to become more involved. Phyllis has received a couple excellent reports from Brazilian trip participants who received MEWS scholarships. Pat Borich raised the question about making changes in the scholarship guidelines to clarify the use of funds for our leadership work (JCEP, PILD, national meeting expense). It might not be well defined currently so we should look at it and be deliberate with those as distinct allowed expenses. We are following established guidelines, but the question might be when and how they were authorized. This has probably been done in all proper manners, but longer-time life members may not be fully aware of the changes. Phyllis will research this question regarding the updated guidelines and share them with the board. There was also discussion regarding professional improvement geared toward retirees.

The national ESP professional development is offering an emerging leadership program on-line in July.

**History and Archives** – Kent has visited with Dave Pace regarding what to archive and are planning a trip to the attic! Kent has been keeping electronic archives of everything coming out this year so it can easily be filed. Neil asked how difficult it would be to put some items from the archive on a web page. They would probably need to be scanned if they are not already digitized (and most aren’t). Significant items could probably be done. Kent should be thinking about what items in the archives may be valuable enough to be scanned and stored elsewhere.

**Life Member** –Gwen sent a report. Communications, an electronic newsletter for retirees (December 4) and recent retirees were included in her report. Mary Fran Lamison, Keith McFarland and Duane Wilson are past members who have passed away recently.

**Professional Improvement** – Much has been on hold based on unknown meeting schedules this next year. This includes the unknown of MAEE regional meetings this spring. Marcia Woeste is our liaison to the MAEE board but she should be contacted to make that determination. Phyllis indicated there has been discussion about spring MAEE meetings being via webinar

Bob is looking as specific members to assist with topics of a solo program on Arboretum/Extension exhibits with ESP and retirees. This might include detailed reports on the Brazilian and Mexican tours, a retirement program, something about on-line opportunities for retirees and active members. Might this be an activity that could be linked to our annual meeting and make it attractive to more active and life members? How might it be tied to the Director’s retiree event on campus (usually in June)? This could be well-worth exploring with the Director. The Arboretum generally waives gate-entry fees for such activities. This could be a great opportunity for all involved (ESP, Arboretum, Director). Bob will talk to Mary Meyer and then the Director about the possibilities. Gwen may already know whether the Director already has plans or how to pursue the idea.

**Global Relations** – Tim reported the Brazilian tour was held in November. They visited a wide range of agricultural facilities learning more of how they produce and market their products to the world. Four or five MEWS scholarships were used for the Brazilian trip. The economy was starting to have its impact and is now continuing to take bites out of their economy. It was a good chance to see similarities and differences in their agriculture and ours. The ESP webpage has a good list of potential program sponsors for international work. <http://espnational.org/GoGlobal/index.htm> It is a place to look at options members may want to explore for future global involvement.

Tim has personally been involved in Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and an internet based project in Mozambique.

**Old Business** – none

**New Business**—

**The newsletter articles should be to Heidi by March 23.** She will then prepare it and send it to the Rochester Regional Office for sending.

- President report - Neil
  - Scholarship - Phyllis
  - Membership - Kia
  - Short report on Brazilian trip which used MEWS funds (Tim will check with Tim Arlt about the NACAA report that might be appropriate or massaged for that purpose.)
  - Awards nominations - Janet
  - MEWS donor list - Phyllis
  - Anything on the Centennial Celebration? Website link
  - Alert to potential summer staff development opportunity at Arboretum - Bob
- Other items as determined by the president

**Review of the Goals**

Website work is proceeding although slowly. Neil has been looking at options and information on how it is being done by others.

We may want to remind our retirees (and active members) of the activity by NARFE regarding retiree benefits. Neil will contact Liz Templin.

Next meeting – Conference call is May 12, 10:00 A.M.

Sue Fisher moved and Phyllis Onstad seconded to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Chuck Schwartau  
Secretary