



A Slice of Pi

EPSILON SIGMA PHI, PI CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	1
JCEP REPORT	3
MEWS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION	4
LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS	5
BRAZIL TOUR REPORT	7
PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT	8
INFORMATION ON NATIONAL ESP MEETING	9
FEDERAL BENEFITS UPDATE	10
RETIREES IN MEMORIUM	11
ESP MEMBERSHIP UPDATE	12
REPORT ON PROGRESS OF LIST WEB SITE FOR EXTENSION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY	
NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS	13

Pi Chapter President's Report

By Neil Broadwater
broad007@umn.edu
507-536-6300

Annual Meeting

The 2008 Pi Chapter Annual Meeting was held in Duluth on October 21 during Extension's Annual Conference. Officers and Committee Chairs for 2008-09 are listed in another section of this newsletter (see p. 5). Since the time of the annual meeting, we have held two Pi Chapter Board meetings, one on November 24 on campus and the other on March 3 via conference call. Two more Board meetings are scheduled before fall 2009, on May 12 via conference call and on August 13 on campus. You are always welcome to send me your issues, concerns or questions so they can be appropriately addressed. At this time, we are unsure of when the 2009 Pi Chapter Annual Meeting will be held. Extension's Annual Conference dates, locations, or what the event will look like, have not yet been announced. On the other hand, your Board has had some brief discussions about holding the chapter annual meeting at a time other than when the Extension Annual Conference is held. We would like to have more life members attend the Chapter's annual meeting because it is your organization as well. We would like to have more time and make it more attractive to all our members. Once we know of Extension Administration's plans for Annual Conference, the Board will begin focusing on plans for the 2009 Annual Meeting, whether or not it would be connected with the Extension Annual Conference.

Goals for the year

At its November meeting, the Board developed a list of goals for the 2008-09 year. For some members, a listing goals may not be enjoyable reading nor may it get them jumping with enthusiasm. But it is important for the health of any organization to set and communicate its goals to determine what needs to be done, to review, to evaluate progress, and to keep the organization moving forward. So here are our goals for the coming year:

1. Increase membership - Focus on reclaiming and retaining previous members whose membership has lapsed. Make renewal forms and processes clearer than they are currently. Send repeat notices to non-renewals.
2. Encourage all ESP members to keep contact with the relevant group that helps track their available benefits programs (NARFE, [Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators](#) [CAPA], etc). Utilize the newsletter, websites and personal contacts to keep this in front of members.
3. Ensure communication and involvement with retirees in the Pi Chapter via e-mail, website, special events invitations, newsletters, and Extension publications.
4. Strengthen partnership with Minnesota Association of Extension Educators (MAEE). Ask MAEE to name a liaison to participate in ESP board meetings.
5. Collaborate with MAEE on conference planning, awards programs and professional improvement opportunities.
6. Continue to review and update archives. Explore appropriate electronic archival systems.
7. Continue nominations and applications efforts for state and national awards nominations.
8. Increase awareness of the Minnesota Extension Workers' Scholarship (MEWS) funds available to support professional improvement opportunities by way of quarterly reminders to members.
9. Identify at least two people for each committee by the annual meeting. Solicit interest in committees on the annual membership form.
10. Establish a website for Pi Chapter.
11. Work on increasing participation by all members and retirees at the annual Extension Program Conference.

Membership

We are making progress on our goals, but at this time our membership numbers remain basically the same as last year. We presently have 43 full active members (seven are new), three associate members and 148 life members for 194 total members. Last year's numbers were 40 full active members, three associate members and 149 life members for a combined chapter membership of 192. Please encourage your colleagues to join ESP. New members are always welcome whether they are extension administrators, state specialists, educators or those in other employment positions. In case you are wondering, associate membership started three years ago. To be an associate member, a staff member needs to have been employed by University of Minnesota Extension for less than three years. Our ratio of life members to active members is about three to one, which is higher than most other states for which I have numbers, but it does vary widely around the nation.

Chapter web site

As noted in the goals, we want to develop a Pi Chapter web site. We will be working on accomplishing that this spring/summer and hope to have it up and running to announce it in the fall chapter newsletter. I think this will be a benefit to all our members so they can keep abreast of what is happening with Pi Chapter as well as where to find resources of interest.

E-mail addresses wanted

Reaching out to our membership is important to maintain the vitality of and interest in the organization. It is easy to do with e-mail lists. It is harder to do with regular mail because of cost and time. I am sending out updates to all members from time to time to those on our email list. This keeps us in touch with the majority of our membership. However, members who do not have e-mail addresses on file receive only the two newsletters we mail each year, so these members do not receive updates and are thus not being informed as much I would like. Currently, there are only 88 of our life members who receive the newsletter via e-mail.

Our e-mail list is growing each year which is helpful. Therefore, if any life member has an e-mail address and is not getting the spring and fall newsletter electronically, please let us know. It helps the chapter save mailing costs, and it helps members be more up to date on Pi Chapter issues.

In conclusion, please **send us your e-mail address** if we don't have it. As a Pi Chapter member, your comments and input regarding your organization and how we can serve you better are always welcomed.

JCEP Conference Report

By Marcia J. Woeste, President-Elect

Chapter President Neil Broadwater and I attended JCEP, February 18-20 in San Diego. Approximately 150 others were in attendance from the North Central & Western Regions, representing ESP, NACAA, NAE4-HA, NAEFCS, ANREP & NACDEP. There were 19 from ESP in attendance.

This year's staff development event was focused on "Ethics in Today's Extension World" and led by Dr. Albert C. Pierce, Professor of Ethics and National Security, National Defense University. He began by saying that we need to talk about ethics, more than just saying, "It's important." How true!!

During the workshop, Dr. Piece presented information that challenged us to think through the ethical dimensions of our teaching, research, and outreach functions. We learned how we, as leaders, can have a positive effect on the ethics of our organization and our coworkers. In addition he gave us a set of tools for our use, and then in small groups we had the opportunity to apply this information to various situations.

ESP also held an association meeting, which Neil and I attended.

- We received a packet of materials and other helpful information that will assist our chapter.
- The ESP website has changed to reflect a new marketing plan adopted.
- All certificates for chapters are now on-line so they are readily available.
- Nationwide we have a ten percent membership increase goal. We have three times as many life members as active members in MN, and this varies widely around the regions. There are about 6,000 national ESP members out of a potential of nearly 17,000.
- Other agenda items included ESP state and national updates, ESP communication, ESP leadership development (if you want to serve on a committee we have the form for you to fill out!), ESP professional development, and how to utilize resources and opportunities.

It is anticipated that an "Emerging Leadership" staff development will be offered online in July. Watch for information!!

Again, thank you the opportunity to attend.

Minnesota Extension Workers Scholarship (MEWS) Fund

By Phyllis Onstad, Chair ESP Scholarship Committee

The purpose of the MEWS Scholarship Fund is to provide scholarship awards for:

- The professional development speaker for the Pi chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi Annual Meeting; and
- Continuing education of all ESP active members who are on the staff of the University of Minnesota Extension and all ESP life members based on application and screening process.

The MEWS Fund Committee encourages retirees as well as current extension workers to apply for scholarship funds to meet their professional improvement needs as they serve their communities and participate in life-long learning educational programs. The 2009 MEWS Fund Committee members are Pat Borich, Naomi Fruechte, Phyllis Onstad, and Eric Vogel.

Application Deadlines: Applications are accepted quarterly. Deadlines are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Request an application via email from ESP Scholarship Chair Phyllis Onstad at onsta003@umn.edu.

There was one application and recipient for the January 2009 submission deadline. Phyllis Onstad received scholarship support to continue into the second phase of the Accredited Financial Counselor certification program. The focus of study is financial counseling and debt management. Onstad will be better prepared to provide education on personal finance, credit and debt plus use effective counseling skills.

The MEWS fund also supported the JCEP training attended by Pi Chapter President Neil Broadwater and President-Elect Marcia Woeste (See JCEP Conference Report on p. 3 of this newsletter).

THANK YOU

The Pi Chapter of ESP would like to **thank** the members who donated a total of \$140 to the MEWS Fund when they paid their membership dues for 2009. Supporting members were Jerry Wright, Sue Meyers, Kay Lovett, John Ankeny, Erven Skaar, Heidi Haugen, Neil Broadwater, and Antonio Alba-Meraz.

Make an Online, Tax-Deductible Gift to the MEWS Fund!!!

Did you know you can, at any time, make an **online, tax-deductible** gift to the MEWS Fund? This entire process is transacted in a secure, safe on-line environment, and it takes just three easy steps:

- Step 1: Go to the University of Minnesota Giving page at www.foundation.umn.edu/pls/dmsn/online_giving.start_null
- Step 2: Designate that you are giving a gift.
- Step 3: State whom you want to support: in the drop down box, click "Extension," then select "MEWS Fund." You can also designate your gift in memory of someone—which is a very nice feature!!
- Step 4: You will receive a confirmation of your gift. Retain this for your tax records.

2008-2009 PI CHAPTER OFFICERS

- President:** **Neil Broadwater**
 Extension Educator, Dairy
 Extension Regional Office, Rochester
 863 30th Ave SE
 Rochester, MN 55904
 Phone: 507-536-6300
 Fax: 507-280-2872
 E-mail: broad007@umn.edu
- President-elect:** **Marcia Woeste**
 (serves as MAEE
 Liaison)
 Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
 Extension Regional Office, Brainerd
 322 Laurel St, Ste 21
 Brainerd, MN 56401
 Phone: 218-828-2386
 Fax: 218-828-2424
 E-mail: woest001@umn.edu
- Secretary:** **Chuck Schwartau** (2007-2009)
 Extension Educator, Livestock
 Extension Regional Office, Rochester
 863 30th Ave SE
 Rochester, MN 55904
 Phone: 507-536-6301
 Fax: 507-280-2872
 E-mail: cschwart@umn.edu
- Treasurer:** **Jerry Tesmer**
 (appointed by Board)
 (Extension Educator, Ag Production - Fillmore County)
 902 Houston St NW #3
 Preston, MN 55965
 Phone: 507-765-3896
 Fax: 507-765-4512
 E-mail: tesme001@umn.edu
- Past President:** **Kay Stanek**
 Campus Regional Director
 Extension Regional Office, Morris
 46352 State Hwy 329
 Morris, MN 56267
 Phone: 320-589-1711, 888-241-4532
 Fax: 320-589-4870
 E-mail: stane005@umn.edu
- Directors:** **Sue Fisher** (Retiree, 2008-2010)
 Retired 4-H Foundation Director
 1420 Hunter Hill Rd
 Hudson, WI 54016
 Phone: 715-386-6043
 E-mail: sfisher5282@comcast.net
- Toni Smith** (Active, 2007-2009)
 Asst. Dir. Govn't Rels/AMC
 260 E Coffey Hall
 1420 Eckles Ave
 St. Paul, MN 55108
 Phone: 612-625-3182
 Fax: 612-624-7749
 E-mail: tonis@umn.edu

Pi Chapter 2007-2008 Committee Chairs:

Standing Committees:

Awards and Recognition:

Janet Beyer
Phone: 507-536-6305
E-mail: beyer010@umn.edu

Fundraising:

Shirley Anderson-Porisch
Phone: 507-337-2812, 888-241-3261
E-mail: ander308@umn.edu

Global Relations:

Tim Dolan
WorkPhone: 507-237-4103
E-mail: dolan008@umn.edu

History & Archives:

Kent Gustafson
WorkPhone: 612-625-8274
E-mail: kgustaf@umn.edu

Legislative:

Toni Smith
Phone: 612-625-3182
E-mail: tonis@umn.edu

Membership:

Kia Harries
Phone: 507-372-3809, 888-241-4635
E-mail: kharries@umn.edu

Professional Improvement:

Bob Mugaas
WorkPhone: 651-480-7706
E-mail: mugaa001@umn.edu

Retiree/Life Member:

Gwen Gmeinder
Phone: 612-625-6795
E-mail: g-gmei@umn.edu

Scholarship:

Phyllis Onstad
WorkPhone: 507-536-6307
E-mail: onsta003@umn.edu
Members: Phyllis Onstad, Eric Vogel, Naomi Fruechte and Patrick Borich

Internal Committee:

Nominating:

Kay Stanek
Phone: 320-589-1711, 888-241-4532
Email: stane005@umn.edu

Audit:

Three members not on Executive Committee

Special Committee:

Pi Chapter Newsletter Editor:

Heidi Haugen
Phone: 218-828-2345, 888-241-0720
Email: hauge350@umn.edu

Brazil 2008: University of Minnesota Agricultural Tour to Sao Paulo and Parana

By Tim Dolan

Planned by the committee of Tim Arlt, Wayne Schoper, Brad Carlson, and Tim Dolan, the tour was proposed so that participants could visit and learn about sugar cane fields, ethanol production facilities, orange production facilities, Agricultural Universities, and Agricultural cooperatives. We left Minneapolis on November 10, and after a short layover in Miami, we arrived in Sao Paulo about midnight or a little before. Everyone was assigned a room and, from all reports, slept well.

Day One: We started our day with a tour of Sao Paulo city and had a very impressive noon meal with many kinds of meats and a buffet that was vast and varied. We also went to a soccer stadium and a soccer museum (soccer is Brazil's favorite sport). We also had a meeting with UNICA, which is a conglomerate of agricultural produce cooperatives.

Day Two: We packed up in the morning and took part in a tour of a tractor manufacturing facility—an AGCO VALTRA facility—then continued on to Piracicaba.

Day Three: This day we went to a branch of the University of Sao Paulo and enjoyed several presentations of work by staff and other things going on in agriculture in the region. We also listened to speakers who taught us about Brazilian society and education and the progress that has made Brazil a better place to live.

Day Four: On our way Matoa, which is a major producer of oranges, the group toured Marchesan, which is a major producer of agricultural equipment from disks to planters and much more. In Matoa, we then toured orange groves and a rubber tree plantation. Special note: when I was in the Peace Corps, I took part in my training in this area.

Day Five: After a stop at a corn field, our next stop included the sugar cane fields and ethanol facilities. We watched sugar cane being harvested and then went to a cooperative where we learned about their facilities and production. Did I mention that everywhere we went they served coffee? It was not quite like our coffee: Brazilians use a pulverized grind that results in a thicker, syrupy coffee, which members of our group seemed to like.

Day Six: This was a major travel day as we were off to Parana and the soybean and coffee area. We stayed at a country inn in a beautiful setting, and the food was, again, excellent.

Day Seven: We first went to a soybean farm where we saw soybeans planted directly into wheat stubble. Workers placed a rider on the planter to monitor things on the planter. The planters are fairly modern and have electronic monitoring to employ more staff. We had another excellent meal here (very tasty Chinese) and also visited a branch of the School of Agriculture of Parana.

Day Eight: We toured the fields at the School of Agriculture. The staff grows every variety of coffee there for research. We also visited EMBRAPA, which is a soybean agricultural cooperative, and we visited their research facility.

Day Nine: We toured beef production facilities and also a large dairy. We managed to get the bus stuck at the dairy; lack of turn-around space forced the driver to a spot where the bus frame got stuck. It was interesting to see the process to get it out: some of the tour participants jack it up with rocks (basically making a new road) to get it out. Other participants took the opportunity to imbibe some liquid refreshment.

Day Ten: the group returned to Sao Paulo to prepare for the return flight the next day.

Some interesting sidelights included the really good food and dining opportunities. For me, it was also a chance to practice the Portuguese I had learned as a Peace Corps volunteer. The family that I had stayed with at that time had moved but our tour guide researched and found the location to which they had moved. We are still trying to make contact with them.

The group camaraderie was excellent, and the ability to get to know all the people in the group was very important. Since our trip, I have done some things with some of them which I probably would not have otherwise.

Since my return, I have also done several presentations to community groups with very attentive audiences wherever I have presented thus far. Thanks to ESP for your support of this educational opportunity.

Professional Improvement

By Bob Mugaas

At this point, various options are being explored for possible ESP professional improvement opportunities during this year. While nothing has been formally arranged as of this newsletter, it is hoped that there will be opportunities either as part of any Annual Extension Conference that is planned or perhaps as a stand-alone event. Anyone with ideas about meeting arrangement possibilities and/or topics you would like to see included as part of any professional improvement opportunity, please let me know. My email address is mugaa001@umn.edu. Thanks.

On April 14th, MAEE hosted a webinar for its members. The webinar included such learning events as "Author's Rights: Publishing Options & Alternative Venues" by Kristen Mastel and Linda Eells and a "Panel on Scholarship and Engagement" with Krishona Martenson, Kia Harries, Mel Baughman, and Eli Sagor. This event was conducted online, so it was not a chance to formally get together as ESP (or MAEE) members as has occurred in the past couple of years.

The national ESP organization is hosting a webcast for all members sometime in July. Exact times and dates have yet to be announced. For information about that event, you can go to their website (<http://esnational.org/>) and click on the calendar tab to watch for more details about this session.



**Engage, Enlighten
and Enjoy**

2009 Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference
September 13-16 Fargo, North Dakota
www.ag.ndsu.edu/esp2009

NDSU
Extension Service
North Dakota State University

ESP

Engage

- Network with other ESP members from across the country.
- Participate in member, regional and committee meetings.
- Honor colleagues who earn recognition.

Enlighten

- Take part in a variety of concurrent sessions.
- Browse educational posters and exhibits, and visit with the poster authors.

Enjoy

- Tour local sites.
- Renew old acquaintances and make new friends.
- Take part in live and silent auction.

Hotel Information:

The Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND is the hotel for this conference event. Rooms are available for the Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference attendees at the special rate of \$89.95 plus tax per night for a single or double room. These rates are available until August 12, 2009 or until the room block sells out, whichever comes first. Please make your reservation by calling the hotel.

3803 13th Ave S

Fargo, ND 58103

Phone: 701-282-2700

<http://www.fargohi.com/>

For More Information:

Go to <http://espnational.org/2009NationalMeeting/index.htm>

Contact Neil Broadwater, Pi Chapter President (e-mail: broad007@umn.edu;
phone: 507-536-6300)

Federal Benefits Update

By Liz Templin

The information below is from the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). It represents the retirement interests of nearly five million current and future federal annuitants, spouses, and survivors. I urge all active and retired employees with federal benefits to join by going to www.NARFE.org.

I have grouped the information as follows: legislation passed, legislation proposed, and facts about entitlements.

Legislation Passed

Federal, state and local retirees who do not receive any Social Security benefits will be eligible to take a newly-created \$250 per person refundable tax credit.

Bills currently in Congress

GPO / WEP: HR 235 and S494 would amend Title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions. Minnesota co-sponsors as of 3/17/09 are Kline, McCollum, Oberstar, Peterson, and Walz.

FERS Sick Leave: HR 958 (no Senate companion bill as of 3/19/09) would allow Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees to credit their unused sick leave toward their retirement. If enacted, this would conform the treatment of unused sick leave between the two federal civil service retirement systems. Minnesota co-sponsors as of 3/18/09 are Ellison, Oberstar, and Walz.

Premium Conversion: H.R. 1203 and S. 491, the "Federal and Military Retiree Health Care Equity Act," would allow federal civilian annuitants as well as active duty military personnel and retirees to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax compensation (also known as "premium conversion"). Many federal employees don't even know they enjoy an average tax savings of about \$820 a year because Premium Conversion is an automatic benefit handled by their employing agency. There are no Minnesota co-sponsors as of 3/19/09.

RetireEz: NARFE is urging funding 'for the Office of Personnel Management's 'RetireEz' or 'Retirement System Modernization' (RSM), an initiative to shorten the average time taken to authorize Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuity payments.'

Questions Answered About an Entitlements Overhaul

Does Federal Retirement face the same solvency challenges as Social Security and Medicare? No. Civil service retirement is fully funded and actuarially sound. Indeed, while Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid will consume two percentage points more than the Gross Domestic Product over the next ten years, Civil Service Retirement's share of the GDP will shrink by 0.06 percent.

Does the retirement of the baby boomers place the same burden on Federal Civil Service Retirement as it will on Social Security? No. Federal retirement will not be directly affected by the boom in the senior population, because the federal retirement population is a function of the size of the federal workforce, not the general population.

If Civil Service Retirement is sound, why are we at risk of being cut? During previous periods of Entitlement Reform, policymakers first discussed cutting the “big three” – Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. However, when lawmakers realized the political liabilities of cutting a programs like Social Security, which has 40 million beneficiaries (77 million by 2030), they turned to the “captive audience” of federal retirees -- a much smaller constituency (2.3 million retirees and survivors). In fact, **during the budget crises of the 1980s and early 1990s, federal retirees and survivors lost \$50 billion in deferred, reduced, and canceled cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) while 40 million Social Security beneficiaries COLAs were not cut.**

What about Obama's budget? “NARFE is withholding judgment on President Obama's first budget until his Administration's much larger submission is made to Congress in March or April.... [NARFE] is happy that there are no plans to cut civil service retirement and health benefits, but we are concerned about what may happen to our earned compensation if legislators decide to overhaul entitlement programs, like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and federal civilian and military retirement.”

What is NARFE's suggested message to lawmakers? “While civil service retirement is fully funded and actuarially sound, past deficit reduction efforts have often targeted the benefits and compensation of civil servants. The federal civil service is often swept up in the effort to achieve political as well as deficit reduction goals. NARFE members need to know that their Representatives and Senators will be vigilant in protecting the compensation and benefits of individuals who have dedicated careers to public service, often at significant financial sacrifice.”

In Memoriam:

By Gwendolyn A. Gmeinder

Please join me in honoring the lives of University of Minnesota Extension Retirees who have passed away during the past three months:

Mary Fran Lamison, age 92, passed away on January 2, 2009. She was known for her work as a family management specialist.

Keith McFarland passed away on December 27, 2008, at age 87. He served the University of Minnesota in administrative capacities for 44 years in positions including Director of Resident Instruction for the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics and Acting Dean and Dean of the College of Home Economics for 20 years.

Duane A. Wilson died on January 20, 2009. His employment included serving as the Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture from 1961 to 1964. His several positions with the University of Minnesota included Sibley County Extension Agent and Secretary of the Board of Regents. He was 87 years old.

ESP Membership Update

By Kia Harries

The MN Pi Chapter of ESP currently has 37 renewed members, seven new members, three new life members, three associate members and 148 life members.

New members inducted into ESP in October were Kelly Kunkel, Holli Arp,; Nathan Winter, Becky Hagen-Jokela, Liz Stahl, Katie Clarke, and Eric Vogel. New life members in ESP are Roselyn Biermaier, Jeanne Markell, and Janet Beyer.

There continue to be requests for membership and for learning more on what ESP is all about. Thank you to everyone who continues to promote the work being done by ESP and the benefits of membership.



Minnesota Extension's Centennial -- 2009

By Neil Broadwater, Pi Chapter President

Most of you have read or heard that the University of Minnesota Extension is celebrating its centennial. The fact this organization has been in existence for 100 years is amazing! It must have been doing something right. It must have been of value to citizens of Minnesota. It must have been fulfilling its mission of providing Minnesotans with access to practical, research-based information to help improve their lives. The University of Minnesota Extension has developed a wonderful web site at <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/extmedia/centennial/> that has a wealth of information on Extension's history. There are stories of Extension work since its beginning and on through the decades. There is even a ten-minute video about Extension in Minnesota that you may enjoy viewing. You can also participate by sharing your Extension memories and photos in one of the section of the web site. I think the whole web site is well done. I have learned a lot about Extension in Minnesota even though I have been working for the organization for one third of those 100 years. I am proud to have been a part of our history, and you should be too. I am grateful to those who have worked hard over the decades as well as to my many colleagues in the present who have made Minnesota Extension successful. My hope is for adequate and appropriate Extension support from our funding sources now and into the years ahead in order to continue the Extension's mission and to build on the great work that Extension professionals (including yourself) have accomplished in the past to meet the needs of Minnesota citizens.

ESP Awards Update

By Janet Beyer

At the Regional and National Level...

Dorothy McCargo Freeman's nomination for Distinguished Service was sent to the National ESP Office in February. We are awaiting the awards nomination information for the North Central region and will then submit our votes for regional awards winners that will be recognized at the national meeting September 13-16 in Fargo, ND.

At the State Level...

It's time to begin thinking about who amongst our chapter colleagues should be considered for awards recognition this fall. Please take a few moments to look at the list of awards below and then send me the names of individuals who should be considered. Don't worry about who has received awards in the past...we will check those out. Just send Janet (beyer010@umn.edu) your list of possible nominations, and then we will begin the sorting and follow-up to get the information that we need.

ESP Awards categories:

- Distinguished Service—significant contributions over 20 years
- Administrative Leadership—noteworthy administrative performance over ten years
- Diversity/Multi-cultural Recognition (individual or team)—innovative programming committed to reaching diverse audiences
- Mid-Career—significant contribution (ten to 20 years)
- Early Career—significant contribution (less than ten years)
- International Service—contributed to Extension in other countries through state and/or overseas work
- Continued Excellence—continued leadership initiative and excellence in program or administration (eligible five years after receiving DSA)
- Visionary Leadership—significant accomplishments in leading Extension in new directions
- Meritorious Support—for support staff who have demonstrated excellence to support Extension programs (does not need to be a member)
- Retiree Service—retiree's continuing contributions and outstanding service
- Friend of Extension—nominees must have given outstanding public service and support to Extension programs.

Again...just a SIMPLE process...no form or long nomination....just send in names and the award(s) that you feel they would be good candidates for.

Extension Regional Office, Rochester
863—30th Ave SE
Rochester, MN 55904915
Phone: (507) 280-2863
Fax: (507) 280-2872



Attention ESP Members:

Help save Epsilon Sigma Phi money! If you receive this newsletter via postal mail, but have an email account, please let us know! We can email you the newsletter and save printing and postage costs. Thank you to those who have already done so.

Send a message to Melissa Instenes—mminsten@umn.edu—with your email address. Also, if your address has changed or changes in the future please let us know. Thanks!

Epsilon Sigma Phi A Slice of PI

Newsletter Editor: Heidi Haugen, Extension Educator

