



PI CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEMO

JUNE, 2011

from Toni Smith, Pi Chapter President

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Greetings Minnesota ESP Members,

There are several very important items in this MEMBERSHIP MEMO that you will not want to miss. This includes:

1. Exploring the creation of a new Extension organization called **Minnesota JCEP**.
2. Update on the recent *University Retirement Incentive* and an optional online data base to announce retirement, parties etc.
3. **Membership highlight** on four of your Extension colleagues; David Werner, Sue Fisher, Dan Martens and Kay Lovett

I am anxious to hear your thoughts about continuing this Membership Memo. Drop me an email.

Toni Smith

tonis@umn.edu

"Minnesota JCEP" - Your Future Extension Employee Organization?

The leadership of both MAEE and ESP have been evaluating the benefits and potential disadvantages of forming a single more streamlined organization to better meet the professional needs of Extension staff. To that end, a draft proposal has been formulated to consider the development of such organization whose name would be the *Minnesota Joint Council of Extension Professionals* or *Minnesota JCEP* for short.

PLEASE review the letter on page 4 of the MEMO and then go to the ESP website, www.extension.umn.edu/esp, click on:

- [Minnesota JCEP Proposal.pdf](#) and
- [Minnesota JCEP Schematic.pdf](#)

After you have read and studied the proposal, please send your comments and feedback to Kay Lovett, committee co-chair, (klovett@umn.edu) **by July 10.**

LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES!

ESP is looking for candidates for committee appointments and officers. Now is the time to step forward to assist in leading the organization. The new President-Elect is Kia Harries who will be assuming leadership this fall. Please contact Marcia Woeste at woest001@umn.edu if you are interested in serving on a committee or as an officer!

SPOTLIGHT ON ESP MEMBERS

In April we featured a new “MEMBERSHIP MEMOS” segment entitled “*Spotlight on Members*”. The first four people we featured were Pat Borich, John Ankeny, Cindy Bigger and Holli Arp. We will evaluate this segment in the future to determine if we continue the updates or possibly roll them into a membership blog. We are featuring four members at random to give you an update on their current life path. If you would like to be featured in the next issue or if you would like to nominate someone and assist us by securing the photo and overview, [we welcome your input](#). Please contact Toni Smith, Kia Harries, Janet Beyer or Eric Vogel. We encourage you to reconnect with these people especially if you have not talked with them in the last several years. The intent of this spotlight is to encourage reconnection with professional colleagues. Thanks to David Werner, Sue Fisher, Dan Martens and Kay Lovett for agreeing to be featured in this month’s spotlight.



David Werner If you believe the saying . . . “Walk a mile in someone else’s shoes and you get a different perspective on life” then you would imagine that David Werner has many different perspectives of life in MN Extension. A 1970’s 4-Her and three year 4-H Summer Assistant, David was hired on by then District Director Arnie Sandager to join the Extension team in Chippewa County in 1980 as an Assistant County Agent, being responsible for the Chippewa County 4-H program and dabbling in Agricultural work. Thirty one years later David serves as Assistant Dean and Chief Operating Officer for Extension, located in Coffey Hall.

In addition to these bookend roles he served as a County Extension Director, Agricultural Educator and Specialized Cluster Livestock Educator in Waseca County and the adjoining Cluster; as District Director for SW District and as a Director of Field Operations. For the first 25 years of his Extension career he spent a majority of his vacation days judging County Fair 4-H Livestock shows in MN and neighboring states. Now David likes to spend those vacation days and the occasional summer weekend on his motorcycle; venturing more into his interest in wines (yes - mostly drinking) and most importantly spending time with his wife Linda and two adult sons, Brian and Jason. If you wish to reconnect with David: werne002@umn.edu



Sue Fisher Sue began her long career with Extension when Leonard Harkness invited her to join the Minnesota State 4-H Staff in 1964. After completing her Phd in Adult Education, her work with 4-H included 17 years in the South where she served as Florida's State 4-H Leader. In the Northeast, she served 2 years as Interim State 4-H Leader in New York and 1 year as the USDA Interim Deputy Administrator for the nationwide 4-H program. Sue returned to her midwest roots in 2001 continuing her 4-H work at the University of Minnesota in several positions. Currently, she is working part-time for National 4-H Council in Resource Development where she enjoys visiting donors in all parts of the US.

Sue has just completed several years as Director on the MN ESP Board. Retirement activities include golf, travel, gardening and family activities. If you wish to reconnect with Sue: fisher5282@comcast.net



Dan Martens is in his 23rd year with Extension. He is a County based agriculture Extension Educator in Stearns, Benton and Morrison County where he focuses primarily on crop production. Dan sees Extension as "working and learning together" with Extension colleagues, agribusinesses, and farming families. He appreciates the ESP MEWS scholarship fund as a resource for ESP members and recommends the Extension ag professionals association along with their state and national conferences.

Dan says Extension work is rewarding when you can share information that works; and very challenging when there aren't clear answers for difficult situations. Dan and his wife Karen have two daughters who are through college now and fortunate to be employed and pursuing their interests in life. Dan says, "Be careful about putting your family and other priorities about life on the back burner too much for things that seem more pressing. Look for what's good that you can enjoy along the way. I sometimes lose track that in the end "these three abide - faith, hope, love." He enjoys time with family and friends, doing some farm work occasionally, baling some hay, fixing or building things, not so much picking rocks. If you wish to reconnect with Dan: dan.martens@co.benton.mn.us

SPOTLIGHT ON ESP MEMBERS (continued)



Kay Lovett and husband Tom, new empty nesters, are slowly adjusting to a quiet household. Their two daughters live in the Twin Cities, the eldest a nurse at Abbott and the youngest a senior at the University of Minnesota. Tom and Kay live on a small acreage where they raise chickens. Kay states, “YES, I collect eggs most days-something I swore as a kid I would never do as an adult!” They do a lot of gardening and traveling to Ireland. Kay began her extension experience as a member of the Fieldon Rustlers 4H club in Watonwan County. Her formal Extension career began in Joliet, Illinois as a Youth Advisor working with both rural and urban audiences.

After moving to Rochester in 1977, she worked as a county extension educator in the family living arena for many years focusing most of her regional and local work on family resource management. She has worked in Extension for 31 years with a 4 year break to explore other career opportunities. She returned to Extension in 2007 as a regional educator in health and nutrition to provide leadership to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program in SE Minnesota. If you wish to reconnect with Kay: klovett@umn.edu

Creation of an Online Retirement Announcement Site

The recent University of Minnesota RIO (Retirement Investment Option) has resulted in a significant amount of people that will be leaving the organization by January 2012. In an effort to assist staff in sharing their retirement plans and posting retirement parties the Minnesota Association of Extension Educators (MAEE) and Minnesota Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) are co-sponsoring an **OPTIONAL** online retirement data base. If you are interested in posting your retirement decision, date you are leaving the organization, optional photo and information on retirement gatherings please contact Kim Asche at asche008@umn.edu. Kim will be posting this information on the ESP website as soon as she has a few people volunteer.

ESP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINI-GRANT -- August 1 deadline

If you are looking for some dollars to support your participation in a professional development opportunity, the National ESP office has announced an additional call for applications for a Mini-Grant. Normally the due date is February 1 each year. However, new applications will be accepted by **August 1** pending funding and board approval.

Purpose:

Epsilon Sigma Phi, through the ESP Development Fund, will provide up to four (4) grants not to exceed \$1000 each to stimulate the professional development of Extension faculty. A completed application includes the following:

- Application
- Statement of Support from Chapter President (If Applicant is Chapter President - Past President should submit)
- Statement of Support from Extension Director

Further information can be found on the National ESP web site at:

http://forms.espnational.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=44

The Extension Workers Creed

Most of you are familiar with the Extension Workers Creed which was written by W.A. Lloyd in 1922 and adopted by ESP in 1927. You may even have it posted on the wall in your office. The creed was put on **YouTube** and we posted it on our Pi Chapter web site several months ago. If you have not looked at the video yet, it is worth watching. You can take pride in being an Extension Professional. Go to:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtJ_Ca1oWvY&feature=related

**"Minnesota JCEP" -
Your Future Extension Employee Organization?**

**JOINT DISCUSSION WITH THE
Minnesota Association of Extension Educators (MAEE)
and Minnesota "Pi" Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP)**

[A PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION](#)

Attention MAEE & ESP members!!!! We need and want your input!

The leadership of both MAEE and ESP have been discussing and evaluating the benefits and any potential disadvantages of forming a single more streamlined organization to better meet and address current and future needs of members and Extension. To that end, a draft proposal has been formulated to create such an organization whose name would be the Minnesota Joint Council of Extension Professionals or Minnesota JCEP for short. The general structural outline and basic operating tenets of a new MN JCEP is what's included in the draft proposal discussion document and the attached organization chart.

Here's where you come in:

The current leadership of both MAEE and ESP are very interested in your feedback about the change itself, your ideas on the proposed structure including whether or not you favor the proposed structure or would like to suggest something different, your thoughts and comments on the basic operational tenets including the guiding principles and, what benefits or drawbacks might you envision with this new JCEP model? Please be as candid and open with us as you care to. Again, your input is appreciated and will be very helpful in making the final determination on moving forward.

The leadership of both current organizations completely recognizes that there are a number of very important details that are not fully developed or addressed at this time. However, there has been a committee formed to work on such things as financial transitions, and awards and recognition. Members of that committee are mentioned in the draft proposal. Therefore, while it's O.K. to forward on to us concerns or issues that might be more about details than we have addressed at this time, we truly hope that you will focus this round of feedback on the overall organizational concept as outlined in the attached discussion proposal and organization chart.

Please take a few minutes of your time to review the proposal and organizational chart attached to this e-mail

You can then forward your comments and feedback to Kay Lovett (klovett@umn.edu) who will be co-chairing this new committee with Kia Harries by July 10, 2011. This will give the committee a chance to review and consider all of the input by their meeting on July 20th. Note that a tentative timeline is included in the proposal for proceeding forward in this proposal's evaluation and potential future adoption.

On behalf of the MAEE and ESP Boards, please know that we are extremely grateful for taking the time to provide us your thoughts and input.

Sincerely,

Toni Smith
ESP President

Kelly Kunkel
MAEE President

PLEASE go to the ESP website, www.extension.umn.edu/esp, to read the proposal and study the schematic for the proposed organization. Click on: [Minnesota JCEP Proposal.pdf](#) and [Minnesota JCEP schematic.pdf](#)