



Epsilon Sigma Phi

A SLICE OF PI

FALL 2008

Report to the members of Minnesota's Pi Chapter

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

The Pi Chapter executive board met four times during the year, one face-to-face meeting and three conference calls; committee members conducted their work either via conference call or email; and two newsletters were sent. One in the spring and now this one in the fall. Neil Broadwater and I attended the North Central/Western Regional workshop in San Diego in February. Chuck Schwartau and I were voting delegates at the National ESP meeting at Galaxy III, September 15-19 in Indianapolis, IN.

The following chapter goals were set at our first board meeting:

- **Increase membership**—we continue to welcome new Associate Members (*open to those with less than 3 years employment*), and additional administrators, educators, and state specialists.
- **Continue to increase communication and involvement with retirees**—contact with retirees is improving using email/calling tree, special events invitations, newsletters, Extension publications and an increased sharing of life events among members.
- **Continue to strengthen partnerships with MAEE**—our ESP liaison (*President Elect*) participates in MAEE board meetings. This has provided both groups with current information on activities, and collaboration on planning for annual meetings in conjunction with Fall Conference
- **Encourage greater knowledge of Nat'l Ass'n of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)** - Members continue to learn what it is doing for employees and retirees who still are under federal benefits plans.
- **Continue to review and update archives**—this is an on-going process. Dave Pace and committee continue the movement of some materials to the University Archives. Existing files are located in the Coffey Hall attic and are labeled with ESP contact information to ensure they are not discarded.
- **Increase nominations and applications for state and national ESP awards**—at the summer board meeting, the board developed a list of potential candidates for each of the award categories and volunteered to personally work with nominees on award application materials. Additional follow-up was done by email.

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- **Increase awareness of the Minnesota Extension Worker's Scholarship (MEWS) funds**—Roselyn Biermaier continues to promote using the MEWS scholarship fund. This year there was increased use. \$4,106.28 was used by members to attend a variety of professional development conferences.
- **Increase committee participation**—each committee chair is encouraged to have at least one more member. Each committee is being asked to develop a committee goal to be sent to the executive board for inclusion in the 2009 organization goals.
- **Establish a website for the Pi Chapter**—we are still exploring the possibility.
- **Increase visibility of ESP at annual conference**—ESP will cooperate with MAEE for a combined awards program and a boat trip at Fall Conference.

The executive board has been very productive this past year and their hard work resulted in many accomplishments. The officers, committee chairs, and directors have provided outstanding leadership and cooperation in these and many other efforts. All organizations rely on this type of teamwork, so please volunteer to serve on a committee, invite a colleague to join ESP, or serve in a leadership role. It truly is a great way to learn more about ESP and all that the organization has to offer.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve as your president this past year. Officers, committee chairs, directors, active and retired members have made this an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm. I look forward to Neil's leadership in the year ahead!

Kay Stanek
ESP Pi Chapter President
stane005@umn.edu

EPSILON SIGMA PHI

The Extension Professionals' Organization

Mission: To Foster Standards of Excellence in the Extension System and to Develop the Extension Profession and Professional



September 15, 2008 In Memoriam of Extension Retirees

Julia Bartlett, 94, an Extension home economist in Hennepin County until she retired in 1973, died November 9, 2007, in Pleasant Hill, Iowa. Julia will be remembered for her educational contributions to youth in the 4-H program.

Arnold H. Claassen, 82, passed away on January 11, 2008. Arnold served 30 years as a county Extension agriculture agent for Rock and Lincoln Counties. He was also known for his help to young children with their 4-H projects. Arnold made many trips to the State Fair so the kids could travel and show their animals and various projects at the fair. Upon retiring, he moved back to the Ottertail area.

Sharon L. Beckes, 61, human resources administrator for Extension for 16 years, died of colon cancer on August 11, 2008. Sharon was known for her dedication to Extension, creating a positive work environment and encouraging wide participation in communication and decision-making.

Harold A. (Bud) Cloud, 81, of Shoreview, died on February 8, 2008. His career as an Extension specialist in agricultural engineering began in September 1967 and included receiving the Extension dean and director's distinguished faculty award in 1982. As a retired professor, he was part of the Cold Climate Housing Information Center Team award in 1989.

Richard Estum, 62, former county agent passed away on March 1, 2008, from cancer. Rich worked in Murray County from 1970 to 1977. From 1977 to 1988 he was employed as the county agent in Lac Qui Parle County, working with both agriculture (specializing in horticulture) and 4-H programs. Rich resigned in 1988 and worked for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. He continued to be active with Extension as a 4-H volunteer and Master Gardener.

Mae Kersting, 101, passed away on August 23, 2008. Her early Extension work included services as a 4-H leader and the Busy Bee Homemakers. In 1960, she moved to Mahnomen and began working as an assistant county Extension agent with the Native Americans. Mae retired from Extension in 1974 and remained engaged in many community activities in Mahnomen including the Library Club, Historical Society, and County Hospital Auxiliary. Mae was chosen as Senior Citizen of the year in Mahnomen County in 1981.

Barbara T. Larson, 73, of Montevideo, died April 12, 2008. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics from the University of Minnesota in 1955 and was employed as a county home agent with Extension in Lincoln, Big Stone, and Lac Qui Parle Counties. Barbara was also a Master Gardener, a charter member of the Fiesta Flora Society garden club, a certified horticulture judge and a member of the North Star Lily Society.

Charlie Peterson, 73, born in 1935 and died on January 23, 2008, in Glendive, MT. He received a degree in animal science, served as a Marshall County agriculture agent and worked for several years in northwest Minnesota before he retired from Extension to work in Montana.

John W. Peterson, 80, died on July 20, 2008 in Gaylord. John began work as a Sibley County Extension agent in 1957 and continued working even after his retirement in 1986. He served as the local water planning coordinator up until a few months before his death. John was an active member in his church, rotary club, and served as a mentor for Sibley East students.

Myra B. Zabel, 98, retired home furnishings specialist, passed away on February 1, 2008, in her hometown of Harlingen, Texas. Born in Michigan, she received her degrees from Michigan State University and the University of Minnesota. Myra taught in Michigan, Kentucky and, the last 17 years of her career, for Minnesota Extension.

Gwen Gmeinder,
Government Relations, University of Minnesota Extension

Why Should YOU Consider Joining NARFE?

NARFE stands for National Active and Retired Federal Employee Association. There are numerous reasons for you to consider joining NARFE.

1. NARFE Annual Scholarship Awards Program—NARFE sponsors 60 scholarships a year, each in the amount of \$1,000. High school seniors who meet the academic requirement, and are children, grandchildren, stepchildren, or great grandchildren of current NARFE members are eligible.
2. NARFE is the ONLY association dedicated to preserving and improving the retirement benefits of federal employees. Your federal retirement, life insurance, health benefits and other benefits can change from time to time, and NARFE keeps you abreast of those changes. In addition, your benefits can be different depending on whether you are covered by CSRS, CSRS Offset or FERS, and whether your FERS annuity has a CSRS component.
3. NARFE's award-winning monthly magazine contains information you won't find anywhere else on national legislation affecting retired and current employees, questions and answers on federal retirement and health benefits, Association news, member profiles and chapter notes. It also carries financial planning stories and lifestyle features, all written specifically for members of the federal family. Get a sample of the NARFE magazine at this website: <http://www.narfe.org/departments/hq/guest/articles.cfm?ID=876>.
4. Membership in NARFE has privileges of its own. Earn back your membership dues with valuable savings on auto, long-term care, dental and supplemental insurance plans. From car rentals to moving services, hotels and travel offers, get the most for your money through trusted names you'll recognize.

Go to NARFE's website for membership privileges, benefits, and information:
<http://www.narfe.org/departments/hq/guest/articles.cfm?ID=742>

Toni Smith
Extension State Government Relations, AMC Liaison

ESP Scholarship Recipient Report

One of the requirements of receiving an ESP scholarship is to submit a report about the use of the award. Below is a report from a scholarship winner and ESP life member, Larry Zilliox. This report is a good reminder that life members, as well as active members, are eligible for scholarships.

To apply for your ESP scholarship contact Roselyn Biermaier, Extension Educator, Food Science, and ESP Scholarship Committee Chair, at bierm005@umn.edu

As elected Rotary District 5950 Governor for 2010-2011, I joined with my colleagues of 2008-09 and 2009-10 to view potential funding projects in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Our goal was to meet with fellow Rotarians in Nairobi to see if we could pare up one of the clubs on future water and sanitation projects. We were able to identify several potential projects that we will fund over the next five years.

I also took the opportunity to fly to western Kenya to meet with a retired couple, the Menya's, who are starting a primary school for orphaned children. The couple, 68 years old, adopted six children who were orphaned because their parents had died, most likely from AIDS.

In the process, they now have 75 children coming to their home five days a week as part of a day care center. They hired two teachers and a cook who makes lunch for them. This may be the only meal the children receive each day. In fact, a number of the children are showing up on Saturdays and Sundays looking for food. Most of these children also lost their parents and are living with grandparents or gaurdians. Several of the youth have been identified as having AIDS and receive medical care, when their is monies available.

The Menya's are asking for financial help—\$1,500—to complete several classrooms. Currently the preschoolers are housed in one room that may be 10' x 12'. They want to build a primary school to house 100 orphans on 1.7 acres of land they purchased. This project will cost approximately \$300,000. The Menya's expect to grow their own fruit and vegetables for the school children.

The Menya's have a daughter in Minneapolis who set up a 501-c3 corporation for individuals to make donations. She created a web site: www.hopeforthechildren.org, and is willing to speak to any group about her parents' plans or other topics about Kenya.

Kenya used to have a very active youth program called 4K. This program disappeared, primarily due to a lack of funding. I met with several individuals who were aware of the program and spoke highly of it. I would be willing to tell the story or invite Beatrice to speak at Extension functions.

There are so many opportunities and needs in so many underdeveloped countries. As an Extension organization, we have skills that could provide valuable services to our fellow human beings. We just need to step out of our secure box and privileges once in a while.

Larry Zilliox,
Extension Educator,
ESP International Chair

ESP SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2009:

By: Glenice Johnson

ESP Phi Chapter will be electing officers at the Annual Meeting, October 21. To date, the following slate is:

President-Elect: *potential candidate has been contacted, awaiting response*

Secretary: Chuck Schwartau continues for second year of term

Treasurer (appointed by the board): Jerry Tesmer

Director: Toni Smith will continue for second year of term

Director: Sue Fisher has consented to serve another term

If you are interested in serving as a candidate for the President-Elect position, please contact Glenice Johnson at glenice@mncable.com or 218-681-4472.

IS there an ESP Silent Auction at Extension's Fall Program Conference this year? Is there an ESP Dollar Auction this year?

The answer to both questions is no, not this year, but...

Do put a couple extra dollars in your pocket before you board the Vista Fleet Boat Tour on Monday night so you can "light up your thirst" with a special treat! You will enjoy and support ESP all at the same time! See you then.

Shirley Anderson-Porisch
Extension Educator/Professor
Family Resource Management

EPSILON SIGMA PHI

The Extension Professionals' Organization

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National Epsilon Sigma Phi Executive Director Position Open

The National ESP Extension professional organization is seeking candidates for the position of Executive Director. Applications are due Dec. 1 with the position available fall, 2009. This is a 75% time position and the office location resides in the community in which the successful candidate lives. The position description details the leadership and management responsibilities of the position and can be found at <http://espnational.org>. For additional information contact Linda Cook, Executive Director at espoffice@espnational.org or call 352-378-6665.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE FALL CONFERENCE BOAT CRUISE IN DULUTH

Did you know that ALL conference participants are invited to attend the Vista Fleet boat ride on Monday, October 20th during the Extension program conference? Take the time now to invite your fellow retirees!

On Monday, October 20: board the boat at 6:30 p.m. for departure at 7 p.m. Enjoy the time to renew old friendships; meet new people and take in the beautiful water view of Duluth.

Cost for attendees and guests is \$35. Contact Cindy Peterson, peter210@umn.edu by October 1 to register. There will be pizza, refreshments (cash bar), music and awards. A short awards program will occur around 7:30 for MAEE and ESP.

You may want to bring a warm coat and bring a few dollars with you on the boat ride. We have a special deal for you—a purchase that will support the ESP scholarship fund and light up your life for 12 hours. You did not have to spend your money or time on securing items for the annual silent auction and you won't spend money bidding on auction items...INSTEAD... bring \$6.00 to light up the boat. Don't be left in the dark on the boat! See you on October 20th and REMEMBER - everyone is invited.

Kimberly Asche
MAEE President

Kay Stanek
ESP President



Epsilon Sigma Phi Registration for Retirees & Epsilon Sigma Phi only members

(If you are a member of MAEE, please register through the MAEE registration materials)
Due Friday, October 1, 2008

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please note the following schedule and your invitation to join the scheduled events and programs at the Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center (or as otherwise noted) It is important for you to indicate what you will be attending so our food/space count is accurate.

Monday, October 20th

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Keynote by Dean Bev Durgan – Lake Superior LMNO _____

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Poster session with appetizers (Edmund Fitzgerald Exhibit Hall) _____

6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Vista Fleet Boat Tour. Boat departs at 7:00 p.m.
\$30.00 for MAEE members \$35.00 for non-members _____

Tuesday, October 21st

6:30 – 8:00 a.m. Epsilon Sigma Phi annual meeting – St. Louis River Room _____
(no cost to attend, but your response is needed for the meal count)

The appetizers and refreshments served during the poster session are provided compliments of Extension and Dean Durgan at no charge to our retirees. This also includes the ESP breakfast on Tuesday morning.

**Send this form & check for the Harbor Cruise payable to
MAEE by October 1 to:**

Cindy Petersen, MAEE Treasurer
U of M Extension Regional Office, Hutchinson
1390 Hwy 15 S
Hutchinson MN 55350

Epsilon Sigma Phi
 National Honorary Extension Fraternity
 Pi Chapter – University of Minnesota Extension

2008 Membership Renewal – Due Wednesday October 1, 2008

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Office Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Office Phone #: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Dues

- Yearly Membership (Extension staff employed 3 years or more) \$ 70.00 _____
- Associate member fee (Extension staff employed less than 3 years) \$ 30.00 _____
- National Life Membership-Retirees only- one time payment \$250.00 _____

Contributions

- Life Member Pi Chapter Annual Voluntary Contribution \$ _____
- Donation to MN Extension Workers Scholarship (MEWS) Fund \$ _____
- Total Due** \$ _____

Please return this copy with your membership dues **by October 1st**.
 Make check payable to **Epsilon Sigma Phi Pi Chapter**. Mail to:

Kia Harries
 Worthington Regional Office
 1567 McMillan
 Worthington MN 56187

Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt.

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



Epsilon Sigma Phi

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 Editors: Kathleen Olson & Sara Croymans, Regional Extension Educators, with the assistance of Melissa Instenes, Karin Andersson & Julie Larson, Regional Support Staff.

