



Epsilon Sigma Phi

A Slice of PI

Spring 2007

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PI CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Happy Spring!

Your Pi Chapter Executive Board has met twice since annual meeting, and is actively working on the following 2006-2007 chapter goals:

- Increase membership – with additional focus on our new Associate Member category.
- Continue to increase communication and involvement with retirees in the Pi Chapter.
- Continue to strengthen partnership with MAEE.
- Continue to further update the ESP Policies and Procedures with expanded or additional sections on committee and officer responsibilities.
- Continue to review and update the archives.
- Complete a new Retiree Directory.
- Expand/increase nominations and applications for state and national ESP awards.
- Support and work with MAEE on pre-retiree workshop.
- Increase number of members participating in/accessing professional development opportunities via the MEWS fund.

There has been significant progress on most of these goals already, thanks to the diligent work of our various committees and officers. Some milestones to report include:

- ✓ Our membership did increase by 20% (from 34 to 41, 2006-2007).
- ✓ We welcomed our first Associate Member, Claudia Cody.
- ✓ We now have liaison board representatives between ESP and MAEE; Kay Stanek, ESP President-Elect links us to MAEE, and Holli Arp is their link to our ESP board.
- ✓ The archives review & update are on hold until the Coffey Hall attic warms up with spring/summer weather; the team will again continue their on-going work.
- ✓ Hooray – the new Retiree Directory is out! Thank you to Gwen Gmeinder and the financial support from Jeanne Markell's office.
- ✓ Three awards applications have been sent to national.
- ✓ The "Pre-Retirement Workshop" has been scheduled for May 18, 2007.
- ✓ Several members have accessed MEWS fund support for professional development.

President-Elect Kay Stanek and I attended the JCEP Leadership Conference in St. Louis, MO, late February. The theme of "Internationalizing the U.S. Cooperative Extension Service" reflected Extension's national initiative of expanding our work to serve culturally-diverse clientele within our own borders and abroad. The ESP meeting agenda included overviews and updates on national ESP plan of work, committees,

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News From National....

Selected items from JCEP and our national website:

- Epsilon Sigma Phi is now responsible for the educational programming that occurs at JCEP conferences each year.
- Extension tenure requirements for membership vary greatly from state-to-state. A common concern is more frequent job change among young professionals.
- Our North Central Region will be featured in the October *ESP Connection*
- There will be only two JCEP locations in 2008 (*change from previous four sites*); the West will be either San Diego or Las Vegas; East not determined.
- Both the 2007 JCEP and national ESP conferences are focusing on the national initiative of "internationalization". Check out the "Go Global" link from our website.
- Life Membership dues will increase from \$150 to \$200 on September 1, 2007. If you are considering life membership, do it now!
- National ESP dues will increase by \$10 for 2008 (*from \$30 to \$40*); we will need to address this in Pi Chapter so our budget can remain 'in the black'.

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PI CHAPTER PRESIDENT... *Continued from Cover*

resources, opportunities, and marketing strategies. It was an excellent opportunity to see the “big picture” of ESP and better understand how chapter and regional work is done. Note the separate newsletter item, “News from National” located on the bottom of page 2.

Professional Improvement is an important benefit of membership in ESP and we work cooperatively with administration and MAEE in this endeavor. The “Pre-Retirement” workshop on May 18 is a shining example. Plans are still being developed for the scheduling of ESP and MAEE meetings and professional development in conjunction with our annual fall conference. Stay tuned for future announcements.

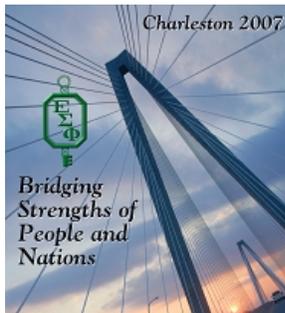
Please continue to keep Gwen Gmeinder, Kia Harries, Diane Damerow or Sheila Craig

informed of any changes to addresses, emails, weddings, births, and deaths so we can keep our records current and share the word with our members.

We hope you are keeping informed of board discussions and actions via the minutes that Secretary Andrea Ruesch sends out to the membership. She does an excellent job of capturing the content of our meetings so please do read them.

This is a summary of Pi Chapter happenings thus far. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, concerns, comments or ideas. Your input is always welcome.

—Glenice Johnson
Pi Chapter President



“Bridging Strengths of People and Nations”
Epsilon Sigma Phi National Conference
September 10-14, 2007
Charleston, SC

This might be the year YOU consider attending a national ESP conference - in beautiful historic Charleston, SC. A variety of concurrent and poster sessions, exhibits, regional meetings, life member events, national meeting, and the annual recognition banquet provide an excellent schedule of events. Featured national speakers will be:

- Dr. David Sammons, Director of International Programs, University of Florida, “Being Global Within Our Local Communities”
- James F. Barker, President, Clemson University, “Bridging Strengths of People and Nations: What Institutions of Higher Education Can Do”
- Denise Ryan, Firestar Speaking, “The Power of Communicating One on One and to Groups”

Pre-conference tours include:

- Agriculture—tea plantation, winery, Clemson Coastal Research Center
- History—Georgetown historic district, Rice Museum, 1760 home with antiques
- Plantation—famous Battery, Rainbow Row & French Quarter, Magnolia Plantation
- Historic Charleston by Land & Water—Ft. Sumter, City Market, Liberty Square & more

The Francis Marion Hotel is the conference site. It is an historic hotel with architectural beauty and charm (*meaning rooms are small and quaint!*).

The 2008 ESP National Conference—Galaxy III will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana (dates to be arranged).

Minnesota Represented at National ESP meeting



Neil Broadwater, Regional Educator in Livestock, and Jeanne Markell, Associate Dean & Director, served as the voting delegates for Minnesota Pi chapter at the 2006 ESP Annual meeting. This photo was taken at the Awards Banquet, where Neil received the Epsilon Sigma Phi Distinguished Service Award.

Neil & Jeanne report to the members of Minnesota's Pi Chapter:

We attended the 2006 National ESP Conference held in Annapolis, Maryland, November 14-18, serving as voting delegates for the Pi Chapter. There were 216 ESP members in attendance.

Highlights of the delegate voters (called National Council) meeting include:

- 68 voting delegates
- Elected as Second Vice-President was Ellen Burton of Illinois (Regions are on a 4 year rotation to fill this position)
- Emphasized that in 2005 a Strategic Plan was put in place for ESP (plan is on the web site)
- "Create-21" will be closely monitored. Create-21 (Create Research, Extension, and Teaching for the 21st Century) is a proposal from NASULGC's Board on Agriculture Assembly working to reach a consensus about how the partnership between USDA and America's land-grant universities should be updated. Create-21 will change the method by which Extension is funded. This proposal is under consideration for implementation in the next Farm Bill.
- A \$10 dues increase (from \$30 to \$40) was passed unanimously, effective for 2008. That meant both of us voted for it. Currently, the budget was being balanced from non-recurring organizational reserves. There hadn't been an increase in 7 years. Board felt there would not need to be another increase for 5-6 years if this was passed. Note: Life member dues are calculated by taking the dues x 5 (\$40 x 5 = \$200 in '08).

- A change in by-laws was approved
- Budget for 2006 was \$179,710. Budget for 2007 will be \$175,775. For income, \$108,500 comes from membership dues. For expenses, major item is Staff salaries and facilities amounting to \$40,900 for 2007.
- A chapter relations committee was formed in 2005. This is a committee of the Board and Executive Director to work on strengthening local chapters. This seems to be an issue nation-wide in ESP.
- ESP Endowment – Goal is \$500,000. Need \$170,000 to reach goal. The silent and live auction at the National meeting this year brought in \$10,000. There were \$16,600 in gifts this past year. Minnesota received recognition for a 5% increase in Endowment contributions during the past year.
- Time was taken for a Member Memorial. Names were read from all states of those who have passed away during the year. For Minnesota, they included: Richard Hanson, Leonard Harkness, Arnold Sandager, Athelene Scheid, Duane Schrader.
- Tuesday, November 14 – Five tours were offered. Neil participated in the "Marketing Maryland Agriculture" which included stops at the Maryland Dept of Ag, USDA's Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, MD and the Maryland Good Center Authority which buys and sells produce throughout the central eastern states.
- Professional Improvement workshops were offered on Wednesday and Thursday which we both attended, picking and choosing those sessions of interest and concern to us.
- Neil was recognized at the awards banquet as a 2006 ESP Distinguished Service recipient.

Additional comments, thoughts, observations:

Check out the National ESP web site at <http://espnational.org/>. This site contains [Photos from National ESP Meeting](#); [2006 ESP Annual Report](#); [Request for Proposals for 2007 National ESP Conference](#); [ESP Membership Brochure](#); [ESP Merchandise](#); [ESP Endowment Campaign](#); [ESP Strategic Plan](#) and other information related to the organization.

- ✓ Benefits of ESP web site – <http://espnational.org/benefits.htm>. New items include: [New ESP Recognition Programs and Guidelines](#); [Communicating the Value of ESP](#); Increasing Your Chances for Recognition in Excellence

- ✓ Global Relations Committee is looking at travel options for ESP members. Perhaps traveling to different parts of the world and would be related to Co-operative Extension.
- ✓ Each region takes turns to host the national conference. Will be in Fargo, ND in 2009. Next year in Charleston, SC (Sept 10-14). For 2008, the meeting is during the Galaxy Conference in Indianapolis.
- ✓ The ESP Plan of Work for 2007 has four goals: 1) Enhance Internal and External Communications and Marketing; 2) Provide Effective Administration and Management; 3) Strengthen Programs which benefit the Extension Profession and Professional; 4) Strengthen and Enhance ESP Chapters. Both of us feel, although the goals are worthy, they are not very measurable when looking further into the objectives and plans of action. If you would like to see a copy, please contact one of us.
- ✓ Neil's choice for best speaker of the conference – Dr. Albert Pierce, Professor of Ethics and National Security at the National Defense University. His topic was "Ethics and Leadership: the Challenges and Responses." "Google" his name on the web to find more information about him including video presentations.
- ✓ Committees -- the regional representatives on the ESP National Board are called Vice-Presidents and each serves as a chair of one of the standing committees. Each committee has two representatives from each region. Nominations to serve on a committee must come from the state chapter. Applications must be in the hands of the second Vice President of ESP by April 1.

- ✓ Participating in the 2007 Poster session or giving a presentation at one of the concurrent sessions at Charleston, SC – Deadline was Feb 28, 2007. Go to <http://espnational.org/> and click "Request for Proposals for 2007 National ESP Conference" for guidelines.
- ✓ Banquet – Recognition was given to the National Distinguished Service Ruby Award recipient (Bonnie McGee, Texas), to National Friends of Extension, Distinguished Service Award (Neil from Minnesota); Mid-Career; Administrative Leadership; Diversity Team; Diversity Individual; Early Career; International Service; Distinguished Team; Visionary Leadership; and Continued Service. Installation of the new Board took place. New President is Della Baker of South Carolina.

We wish to thank the members of the Pi Chapter of Minnesota for allowing us to serve as your voting delegates and for representing you at the National meeting. If you should have any questions about the national conference, what goes on during the week, or how you can apply to present a poster or be a workshop presenter, please feel free to contact either of us.

⇨ **Life Member Dues** ⇨
Increase Sept. 1, 2007
 Considering life membership? Those dues will increase from \$150 to \$200 on Sept. 1, so plan accordingly.

Extension Supports "Create 21"

One of the highlights of advocacy efforts at the federal level of Extension this year regards a bold move to revamp the formula and competitive funding that comes to all states for Extension programs. The national land grant system is asking for an aggressive commitment from congress to keep Extension and research relevant and accessible to meet the most urgent needs of American families, communities, and economy. This plan is fully described at this web link: <http://www.create-21.org/>

—Jeanne Markell

Global Relations Committee

The Global Relations committee at the national level has a number of resources available to you if interested in International work. One especially useful site is the International Opportunities page which list various organizations with international programs. They list sites such as VOCA, Land O'Lakes, GoAbroad, Partners of The Americas and they provide the website links to those sites. Check it out at www.espnational.org/GoGobal/index.htm.

—Larry Zilliox

Membership Report-New Associate member Category

Recently, membership information related to life members, deceased members and inactive members was added to the computerized membership files. This will make accessing and updating data easier in the future.

At the 2006 annual meeting, we added a new membership category, Associate Member. The Associate membership is only at the state level (Pi Chapter), not a national membership. As an Associate Member, individuals pay only our chapter dues, and are limited to our state activities and benefits. Those eligible for this membership category are all county, regional, and state Extension program and administrative professionals, who have served in Extension less than three years. Associate membership is only available for the first three years of Extension appointment; at which time they are eligible for Full Membership.

We already have our first Associate Member, Claudia Cody, an REE, Community Economics, at the Andover Regional Center, and we encourage you to extend the invitation to other "new" eligible Extension folks. Further promotion of this new membership category will occur with the membership drive in the fall.

—Kia Harries

Minnesota Extension Worker Scholarship

The Minnesota Extension Workers Scholarship fund which is often referred to as MEWS was established June 4, 1990. It has helped numerous extension workers as they pursued advanced degrees or professional development opportunities. It also helps the organization as your president and president elect just attended the JCEP central regional meeting.

As a member of ESP you too can apply for MEWS funds for your professional development or as you work on an advanced degree. Application deadlines are 4 times a year, so you have several opportunities to apply. The dates are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1st.

The scholarship committee members are Pat Borich, Naomi Fruechte, Phyllis Onstad and chair Roselyn Biermaier. All the correspondence is via email for easy access. Please send an email request for an application to Roselyn at bierm005@umn.edu.

—Roselyn Biermaier

Pre-retirement Workshop

We are delighted to report that, based on requests from MAEE and ESP, Dean Bev Durgan has funded a one-day pre-retirement workshop for Extension employees with federal benefits. The day-long workshops will be offered twice: May 18 and May 21, and will be held on the St. Paul Campus. Employees and their spouse or partner will have their mileage and lunch provided by the Dean. Based on survey results from employees, the workshop will focus on the technical information about federal retirement benefits (calculating benefits, WEP / GPO, federal long term care insurance, etc.). The workshop will not include information easy to obtain elsewhere (i.e. housing options, eating right in retirement, etc.)

ESP is sponsoring an on-line survey to obtain the wisdom and advice of our retirees to pass on to active employees at this workshop. Look for an e-mail in the next few days.

—Liz Templin

Extension Retiree Directory

On March 12, the long overdue Extension retiree directory was sent to 343 Extension retirees. I have been receiving updated phone numbers, e-mail addresses and one new address. As revisions come in, any updates on ESP members is forwarded to Melissa Instenes and Sheila Craig.

The directory changes will be sent out via e-mail next month. A handout with the updates will also be brought to the Extension retiree spring reception with Dean Durgan, June 12, 2007.

Thanks to all who have provided updated information. The overall goal is to develop an accurate and reliable database for future communications.

—Gwen Gmeinder

Extension Retiree Newsletter

On April 5, the first ever newsletter just for Extension retirees was distributed via e-mail. “*Extension Update*” has been created by Extension’s Government & Constituent Relations unit and the Extension Communications team. The newsletter consists of segments such as: Dean’s column, news from the Extension organization, retiree updates, Extension in the media, ways to help, and web links to the *Journal of Extension* as well as Extension’s public website. Currently, the distribution lists consists of 161 retirees.

The goal of the newsletter is to increase positive connections and inform retirees of Extension’s programs, people and impacts across Minnesota. The electronic newsletter will be sent three times a year.

If you know of Extension retirees who have an e-mail, but did not receive “*Extension Update*,” please notify Gwen Gmeinder. There are a few e-mails that are bouncing back and I am trying to track down corrections.

—Gwen Gmeinder

Retirees in Memoriam

We have been notified of the following deaths in the past six months:

Rachel M. Barrett, an Extension community program assistant in Beltrami County, died February 19, 2007.

Rosella Qualey, life member of ESP, passed away on February 18, 2007. Rosella’s 36-year career included serving as the first home economics county agent in Kandiyohi County as well as various district and state leadership positions.

George Roadfeldt, former Hennepin County and Isanti County Extension Director, died on February 11, 2007 at age 92. He was a life member of ESP.

—Gwen Gmeinder

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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.

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!

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