



Epsilon Sigma Phi

Alpha Omicron Chapter

Fall 2015 Newsletter

Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Omicron Chapter

Executive Committee

Bethany Raney, President
Robin Kuleck, Vice-President
Karen Thomas, Secretary
Nancy Stevens, Treasurer
Jon Laughner, Past President

Committees:

Annual Meeting – Suzanne Weltman
Audit & Finance – Tom Walker
Awards - Melinda Graver
Constitution & By-laws – Ann Swinker
Global Relations - Jon Laughner
Membership & Initiation – Claudia Mincemoyer
Nomination – Janice Stoudnour
Professional Development – Mandel Smith
Scholarships & Loans – Stacie Hritz
Sympathy & Memorial - Peter Wulforth
Recognition on Retirement – Jan Scholl
Historical (Ad Hoc) –
Life Member Involvement (Ad Hoc) – Nancy Kadwill

In this Issue:

- President's Message
- 2015 PA JCEP Annual Conference
- ESP Annual Meeting
- ESP Membership Report
- ESP Professional Development
- Want a Rewarding Opportunity
- ESP Recognition Upon Retirement
- Opportunities for Life Members
- ESP National Conference

President's Message

By Beth Raney

Welcome

In spite of the hot days this week, fall is coming soon... a time of transitions! Feeling more cool evenings and seeing more sweaters and jackets, more students back on campus, fairs completed and new programs coming up, always something new! It can be invigorating to make another fresh start.



The same can be said for ESP. While my year as president isn't over yet, it's certainly gone by quickly. I've very much appreciated the work and support of our officer team and dedicated committee chairs. There is an effort to make ESP a better organization and member experience. Great ideas are surfacing! As you read through this newsletter, it should offer evidence of our plans and progress.

Preparations are also underway for the ESP Annual Meeting, professional development, and fellowship luncheon. Look for registration information soon.

As always, your input is essential. What are we doing well? What can we improve? If you have any comments or suggestions for discussion, please send them to me at bethraney@extension.org or any of the officers. We appreciate your energy and enthusiasm!

2015 Pennsylvania Joint Council of Extension Professionals Annual Conference November 17-18, 2015

By Beth Raney

Join your colleagues for two days of professional development, networking and recognition! The ESP Annual Meeting and professional development will be on Tuesday morning, November 17, with the rest of the JCEP Conference following. This year's conference will feature a keynote presentation by Pamela Gockley titled "Does Your Reputation Precede You? You Bet it Does!" In addition, three breakout sessions will be offered with topics of interest to everyone. The Association Award Winners will be recognized at the annual banquet Tuesday evening which includes both silent and live auctions.

Remember to bring an item for the Silent Auction. ESP receives the proceeds from the sale of items ESP members donate! It'd be great if each person could bring at least one item!

Watch for information about registration (via CVENT) which will be shared in the next couple weeks.

ESP Annual Meeting

*By Suzanne Weltman,
Annual Meeting Committee
Chair*



**An Open Invitation to the
2015 Epsilon Sigma Phi
Annual Meeting Ramada
Conference,
1450 S. Atherton St.
State College
Tuesday, November 17,
2015
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**



Get ready for the 2015 Annual Epsilon Sigma Phi meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at the Ramada Conference Center in State College. The business portion of the meeting kicks off promptly at 9:30 a.m., and features committee reports, recognition of awards winners, initiation of new ESP members, and the election/installation of new officers.

This year, Epsilon Sigma Phi extends a warm invitation to members and other Extension association attendees to join us for a professional development presentation from 10:45-11:30 a.m., followed by a catered lunch. It's an opportunity to network and mingle with friendly ESP members and fellow Extension colleagues while honing your grant-writing skills and enjoying a tasty mid-day meal.

Registration and fee information will be distributed via email.

ESP Membership Committee Report

*By Claudia Mincemoyer,
Membership Chair*

The ESP Membership Committee met in July and discussed ways to increase membership, including waiving the years of service requirement for membership. Look for more information about this suggestion prior to the ESP Annual Meeting as this will require a by-laws change. A refreshed marketing brochure and flyer are available and will be distributed to extension faculty and staff soon. Dues for membership application or renewal will be \$60.00. Payment is due no later than 1/19/16. The membership form will be sent prior to the ESP Annual Meeting.

ESP Professional Development

*By Mandel Smith,
Professional Development
Chair*

Epsilon Sigma Phi Professional Development Presentation and Lunch

***Getting the Most of your
Grant-writing Efforts
Tuesday, November 17,
2015
10:45 a.m.***

A common misconception in the grant writing process is that the actual proposal is a major component of the grant seeking process. However, to be successful, grant writing is a process that entails careful planning, research and outreach as well as cultivating relationships. Many organizations aren't aware of the foundations in their area that could assist them in their work. It is important to find the right funding opportunities as well as build effective partnerships with these funders. It is also important to tell the story of your organization in how you are making a difference in your community.

This 45 minute grant-writing presentation, presented by Peter Wulforth, Extension Educator with the Penn State Ag. Entrepreneurship/

Economic & Community Development Team, will assist you in identifying funding opportunities from private sources and public agencies. Peter will also share the key components of effective proposal development. The workshop will be hosted by Epsilon Sigma Phi as part of their 2015 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 and is open to **all ESP members and others.**

If you are interested in attending, please register for the ESP lunch and/or just come to the Professional Development presentation. **The presentation will begin at 10:45a.m. followed by lunch at 11:30am.**

Want A Rewarding Opportunity?

By Janice Stoudnour,
Nomination Committee Chair



Are you like most of your peers who have too much to do and often feel a bit overwhelmed at your job, yet you still want to contribute in some way to the ESP organization? We have a **REWARDING** opportunity for you; serve as ESP secretary! It is as simple as taking minutes during board and annual meetings and

reporting any correspondence. Bring your laptop or tablet; you can record it as it happens during the meeting – good time management. Occasionally there are very brief conference calls to get updates, but you can do that from your desk or home. What's the reward? You have the opportunity to work with an amazing group of people who are interested in professional development, engaging in leadership opportunities, and yes having fun too. Give the ESP leadership team a look and if you think you may be interested in serving as secretary, let's talk. Janice Stoudnour, jes102@psu.edu.

ESP Recognition upon Retirement

By Jan Scholl,
Recognition on Retirement
Committee Chair

There are several options available for recognition from ESP upon your retirement:

- you can become a Life Member,
- receive a Nittany Lion statue OR
- donate the amount (\$90.00) to a scholarship fund within ESP.

If you choose to become a life member, dues are 5 times the current national individual annual membership dues.

EXAMPLE: 2015 national dues are $\$40 \times 5 = \200 (*If a member has already paid annual dues for the current year, the national life member dues would be $\$200 - \$40 = \$160.00$)

PA ESP contributes \$90 toward the life membership cost, so the life member pays either \$110.00 (has not paid annual dues)/or, \$70.00 (has already paid annual dues for the year.)



Be sure to request a life member certificate and inform Jan Scholl of the spelling of your name, years of service in Extension, where you would like the certificate or lion presented, and what your retirement address, e-mail and phone number are.

Hopefully, this will be done far enough in advance that the certificate of life time membership or the Nittany Lion can be presented at an ESP meeting or other appropriate gathering before retirement. So if you are planning on retiring in the near future, please contact Jan Scholl before your retirement date.

Opportunities for Life Members

By Nancy Kadwill,
Life Member Committee
Chair

It would be great to see a lot of life members attend the upcoming fall ESP meeting. We need to show support for our chapter. Let's learn what the chapter is currently doing and see how we can help. And let's face it, it is a wonderful venue to see our former co-workers and come to the lovely Penn State campus when it is not crowded with a football game or arts festival.

So to that end, we are planning to have a social and/or educational (what!!) activity after the meeting where we can get together and have fun and make the time and cost of travel worth your while (in addition to the above reasons, of course). I am working on a special tour or venue and welcome your ideas. We might have a special behind-the-scenes tour, visit one of the many museums on campus, and/or go to the Creamery! I am also seeing what the Alumni Association might be able to do for us. OR maybe we can even visit an area winery for a tour and tasting.

Let me know ASAP if you are intrigued by the idea of gathering after the meeting. You can reach me at nmk1@psu.edu (love those lifelong email addresses!).

Some of you might want to stay and help with the auction and attend the evening banquet. Lots of opportunities await you. We will get info out once we have the latest details on the annual meeting. When I last attended a state chapter meeting about two years ago, Guy Temple and I talked about offering such activities to try to get more life members to attend. So Guy, I hope we can gather in your memory.

I remember when I first retired and was asked to come to the annual meeting to give a report. At first I felt funny and didn't want to be perceived as not being able to "let go" of extension work. Trust me, all the retirees I know REALLY CAN LET GO! But many of us have fond memories of how ESP helped us in our careers, and want to give back in some way if possible.

I have always admired the support for ESP by people like Patricia Powley and others who often still attend national meetings. And speaking of national meetings...the 2016 ESP meeting will be in Cape May, NJ. Many of us can drive there (if you are in the multi-state area of course) and I am sure they will welcome help. We will find that out for you.

Epsilon Sigma Phi National Conference



The 2015 ESP National Conference will be held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, October 4-7, 2015. Join your colleagues from across the country for an outstanding professional development experience!

The registration rate is \$500 through September 25; Late Registration of \$550 starts on September 26th. Part Time and Non-Member registration rates are also available. Registration is available now through the ESP.

<http://conference1.espnational.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ESPConference2015Idaho/>

Can't make this year's national conference? Plan to attend next year's national meeting in Cape May, NJ on October 23-27, 2016!