



Epsilon Sigma Phi

Alpha Omicron Chapter

Spring 2016 Newsletter

**Epsilon Sigma Phi
Alpha Omicron Chapter**

Executive Committee
 Robin Kuleck, President
 Karen Thomas, Vice-President
 Robert C. Goodling, Jr., Secretary
 Nancy Stevens, Treasurer
 Bethany Raney, Past President

Committees:
 Annual Meeting – Cathy Bowen
 Audit & Finance – Tom Walker
 Awards –Karen Thomas
 Constitution & By-laws – Beth Raney
 Global Relations – Jan Scholl
 Membership & Initiation – Claudia Mincemoyer
 Nomination –Gregory Martin
 Professional Development – Mandel Smith
 Recognition on Retirement – Martha Gregory
 Scholarships & Loans – Dwayne Hay
 Sympathy & Memorial - Peter Wulfhorst
 Historical (Ad Hoc) – VACANT
 Life Member Involvement (Ad Hoc) – Nancy Kadwill

President’s Message

By Robin Kuleck

Epsilon Sigma Phi is unlike most other profession affinity groups. Our membership invites people from all disciplines under the Cooperative Extension umbrella to join together in the pursuit of professional excellence. The challenge of an organization of such disparate interest is finding common knowledge gaps and meeting them. The individual state and national professional organizations of which we belong do a good job of increasing our disciplinary knowledge. The goal of ESP is to heighten that knowledge through the synergies created when we gather and share our collective wisdom offering insight from a very wide perspective.

Another difference is our state officer structure. Instead of running for and holding office in a specific job title, ESP officers usually are on a five year leadership track. Starting as Treasurer the first year, you move on to Secretary, Vice President, President and end the track with Past President. Such an unusual leadership structure provides opportunities to stretch and grow

intermingled with discomfort of feeling inadequate and unprepared due to numerous professional and personal competing priorities and time constraints. So here I am confessing I am up against a deadline I thought I could easily meet a month ago!

Even though I am not living up to my expectations, I am reminded that being involved as an officer takes a lot of time – preparing for, conducting, and following up on decisions made during meetings. We have held several Adobe Connect Board Meetings focusing on increasing our membership, membership involvement, ideas for professional improvement, planning the fall JCEP meeting and retiree involvement. In the role of President I have had the opportunity to hear perspectives from people across the state, from different disciplines and even generations. Our work is changing rapidly as the elements of the ATLAS

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project are being implemented and the state budget impasse has been

resolved. I appreciate the willingness of my board members to share the workload and of our membership in general. While we have just 31 members, I was excited to see that Pennsylvania affiliate members submitted for 7 of the available 11 national recognitions. Reading through their accomplishments I was reminded of how caring and committed extension educators are.

Finally, I encourage you to take some time to explore the national ESP website at www.espnational.org. In addition to numerous scholarship opportunities, several excellent professional development opportunities are listed – some that would meet diversity training hours! Robin L. Kuleck
2016 Alpha Omicron Chapter

Save the Date

National ESP Conference
Oct. 23-27 2016-Cape May, NJ

PA JCEP Fall Meeting
Nov. 15-16 2016-Ramada
Conference Center, State
College PA

**2017 JCEP Leadership
Conference**
Feb. 8-9 2017-Orlando, FL

2016 Membership Update

*By Claudia Mincemoyer,
2016 Membership Chair*

30 Active Members
4 New Members:
 Jacque Amor-Zitzleberger, Ext.
 Educator, Family & Consumer
 Science
 Kirsten Dubbs, Ext. Educator, 4-
 H & Youth Development
 Debra Griffe, Program
 Coordinator, Dining with Diabetes
 Cynthia Kunes, Manager,
 Business Services, Penn State
 Extension

73 Life Members

There are currently 30 active members and 73 life members in the Alpha Omicron Chapter of ESP. We are pleased to welcome new members, Jacque Amor-Zitzleberger, Kirsten Dubbs, Debra Griffe and Cynthia Kunes to our association and to Michael Martin who transferred his membership to PA.



At our annual meeting last year, we voted to change the by-laws to waive years of service as a requirement for membership. Please encourage your new colleagues to join ESP! Share the benefits of membership. ESP is the only organization that brings together Extension employees from all levels,

units and subject matter disciplines of the Extension System into one organization. The mission of ESP at the state and national levels is to develop, support and promote the Extension profession and professional. Members commit to moving the Extension system forward in a changing educational environment. Please send names of potential members to me and I'll forward membership information.

Extension Extended – Have you seen it yet?

*By Nancy Stevens,
Treasurer*

Epsilon Sigma Phi sponsors an annual publication called "Extension Extended." This 40 page booklet is full of short letters from Extension retirees sharing what they have been doing over the last year. It is fascinating seeing what hobbies, travels, and other adventures our predecessors are into. One copy was mailed to each county extension office and two to each department about a month ago. If you missed it – ask around! There is also a listing of addresses, phone numbers and emails for all retirees that you might find useful.

Sympathy/Memorial Committee Report

By Peter Wulfhorst,
Sympathy & Memorial
Committee Chair

ESP Alpha Omicron Chapter remembered several of our life members that passed in 2015 at our November annual meeting:

- Robert M. Hetrick, (82) Jan. 21, 2015
- Frederick A. Hughes, (92) Jan. 25, 2015
- Josephine M. Kotch, (85) Jan. 26, 2015
- Thomas King, (89) Feb. 7, 2015
- Guy Temple, (84) Mar. 5, 2015
- Frank Zettle, (91) Mar. 11, 2015
- Blaine Schlosser, Aug. 22, 2015



Epsilon Sigma Phi 2016 Committee List

Annual Meeting

Cathy Bowen, Chair (15-16)
Jacqueline Amor-Zitzelberger,
Co-Chair (15-16)

Audit & Finance

Tom Walker, Chair (15-16)
Cynthia Kunes, Co-Chair (15-16)
Robert Goodling
Nancy Stevens

Awards

Karen Thomas, Chair (15-16)
Michael Martin, Co-Chair
Mindy Graver

Constitution & By-Laws

Beth Raney, Chair (15-16)
Dan Kniffen, Co-Chair

Global Relations

Jan Scholl, Chair (15-16)

Membership & Initiation

Claudia Mincemoyer, Chair
(15-16)
Christy Bartley, Co-Chair

Nomination

Gregory Martin, Chair (15-16)
Don Tanner, Co-Chair

Professional Development

Mandel Smith, Chair (15-16)
Debra Griffie, Co-Chair

Recognition on Retirement

Martha Gregory, Chair (15-16)

Scholarship and Loans

Dwayne Hay, Chair (15-16)
Brenda Bernatowicz, Co-Chair
Elise Gurgevich
George Hurd

Sympathy and Memorial

Peter Wulfhorst, Chair (15-16)
Jan Scholl

Historical (Ad Hoc)

VACANT, Chair

Life Member Involvement (Ad Hoc)

Nancy Kadwill, Chair (15-16)

2016 Members with no Committee identified

Ted Alter
Marilyn Corbin
Kirsten Dubbs
Robin Kuleck
Ann Swinker
Donna Zang

Invite an Extension colleague to join ESP!

Let's set a goal for each member to invite an Extension colleague to join ESP this year. Extension educators and faculty from all disciplines are welcome to join. Some of the member benefits include:

- Extension personnel united across disciplines, units and program areas.
- Connecting personnel and retirees to build networks, continuity, and support for the Extension System and related issues.
- Access to scholarships and mini-grants.
- Recognition system for excellence in Extension's personnel, retirees, clientele and supporters.
- Professional development opportunities.

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edu/esp](http://agsci.psu.edu/esp)

