

EPSILON SIGMA PHI

The Cooperative Extension Professionals' Organization

The mission of Epsilon Sigma Phi is to foster the standards of excellence in the Extension System and to develop the Extension Profession and Professional.

The purpose of the organization is to maintain the standards and ideals, uphold the morale, prestige and respect of Extension support staff, to develop an effective working relationship and a spirit of fellowship among the present and retired/emeritus faculty of Extension and to encourage professionalism within Extension.

Members of Epsilon Sigma Phi are the personnel and retirees of the Cooperative Extension System of the United States Department of Agriculture; 1862, 1890, 1994, institutions and counties (districts or parishes) or cities. ESP is open to all faculty, staff, administration or retirees who have/had responsibility for and who are/were funded by the Extension Service.

Epsilon Sigma Phi is one of the oldest and is the largest organization of Extension Professionals. National ESP was formed in 1926 by the Montana chapter and chartered in 1927. Epsilon Sigma Phi is an equal opportunity/affirmative action organization. The organization values and seeks a diverse membership.

WHAT IS LIFE MEMBERSHIP?

Life membership is extended to staff and faculty who will retire in a current year. It also may be extended to former employees who chose not to join when they retired. The cost of Life Membership is determined by the state chapter and includes a sum five times the annual dues for the National ESP organization.

WHY BE A LIFE MEMBER?

Extension professionals have had a fulfilling career of service to clientele, university, Extension, and to the profession.

Even though some may feel they want a break there are others who want to stay connected with their colleagues and the organization. They want to give service as they have time and resources and will benefit from the continued association with Extension professionals.

Printed January 2004

WAYS TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED

- Participate in activities, social events and outings specifically designed for retirees by ESP.
- Stay in touch with other retirees and colleagues. Most retirees find that some of their greatest friendships were those with whom they worked.
- Provide workshops for retirees at the chapter, state and national level.
- Serve as officer, committee chair or committee member at the chapter or national ESP level.
- Provide leadership for organizing and conducting special activities for Extension that time would not allow someone working full time.
- Provide leadership for fundraising activities to support, for example, professional development of Extension.
- Serve as an advocate for Extension at the local, county, state and national level.
- Contribute to newsletters of Extension at the chapter, state and national level that will build understanding of our rich history, build morale, and help younger professionals pursue excellence in their profession and prepare for the their future.
- Serve as mentor for new Extension faculty and staff members.

HOW TO BECOME A LIFE MEMBER

- Fill out the membership form today and pay dues. Dues are a one-time payment of five times the annual national dues plus the amount required by the state in which you served.
- Let Chapter officers know of your ideas, interests and willingness to become involved at Chapter or National levels.
- Volunteer to serve on a Chapter or National ESP Committee.
- Provide ideas to your Chapter and National organizations that you would be interested in becoming involved or for providing leadership.

CONTINUE YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ESP

- Continue to develop and use your skills as educator, presenter, facilitator and leader.
- Contribute and enhance your leadership ability through committee membership and leadership; organizational leadership at the chapter, state, regional and national level.
- Participate in state, regional and national professional and personal development conferences.
- Share your experience, expertise and scholarly activity with other colleagues and Extension Professionals.
- Contribute to the success of Extension and the profession through fundraising activities, special activities and projects, and political action at the local, county, state and national level.

QUESTIONS?

Visit the web site:

<http://espnational.org>

or contact the **National ESP Office:**

Linda D. Cook, Executive Director

PO Box 357340

Gainesville, FL 32635-7340

352-378-6665

FAX 352-375-0722

espoffice@espnational.org

EPSILON SIGMA PHI

*The Cooperative Extension
Professionals' Organization*



MEMBERSHIP:

**AN INVITATION TO ESP
LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

ESP Website:

<http://espnational.org>

LIFE MEMBER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Extension Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

e-mail: _____

Chapter Affiliate: _____

Signature