



# TEXAS ESP CONNECTION 2014 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January – March  
July - September

April – June  
October - December

## 2014 STATE BOARD OFFICERS

- President— Vincent Mannino**
- President Elect— Mary Collier**
- Past President— Deana F. Sageser**
- Secretary— Daphne Richards**
- Treasurer—Tonya Poncick**
- V.P. Membership—Julie Massey**

## 2014 DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

- Prairie View Campus—**Jacquelyn M. White
- District 1—** Jackie Farrell
- District 2 -** Mary J. Collier & Deana F. Sageser
- District 3 -** Jane Rowan
- District 4 -** Sara Allen & Dottie Woodson
- District 5 -** Wendi Green
- District 6 -** Karan Heffelfinger
- District 7 -** Wade Hibler & Linda Wells
- District 8 -** Cheryl E. Walker
- District 9 -** Dr. Sonja Davis & Dr. Allen Malone
- District 10 -** Daphne L. Richards & Nelda L. Speller
- District 11 -** Mac Young
- District 12 -** Barbara A. Storz

## 2014 STATE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Awards & Recognition -** Starla Garlick
- Global Relations -** Dr. Allen Malone
- Membership Recruitment & Retention -** Julie Massey
- Newsletter -** Dr. Sonja Davis
- Nomination -** Deana F. Sageser
- Professional Development -** Starla Garlick
- Public Issues & Marketing -** All Members
- Resource Development & Mgmt. -**  
Jay Yates & Stan J. Bevers, AFM
- Life Members & Retirees -** Billy E. Warrick, PhD
- ESP Website Management** Billy E. Warrick, PhD

### Greetings to Everyone,

I sincerely hope that you are enjoying your summer despite the heat. While some of us are neck-deep in wonderful summertime Extension activities involving kids and families, others are tending to the needs of result demonstration plots, cattle and crops. With all the activity in your professional lives, I sincerely hope you are finding time to enjoy your family & friends and to enjoy nature & the great outdoors; and for some of us - even the chance to catch up on maintenance and repairs in and around the home would be a blessing.

This fine professional organization (founded in 1927) we call Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) focuses on bringing together Extension professionals and retirees from all disciplines, levels of administration and support services. We work to unify Extension professionals in both voice and purpose to forge bonds between those leaders of yesteryear, current Extension professionals and future employees of this great agency.

As most of you may know, ESP honors its members and outstanding friends with numerous awards, scholarships, educational resources and financial support to: 1) improve your teaching skills as educator; 2) enhance your leadership abilities through professional development at the local, regional and national conferences; 3) increase your networking opportunities; 4) tackle challenges and emerging needs as they present themselves; and 5) guide Extension into future – to the next centennial celebration.

As President of the Texas Alpha Zeta Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, my 2014 board members and I hope to make your professional lives a little easier by offering educational tools that might be of some use to you as Extension educators, middle managers, program specialists and administrators. This year we are focusing on sharing a wealth of information through a series of PowerPoints on a variety of subject matter. Next year we hope to provide more specific means of support as we hope you will identify.

ESP National and Alpha Zeta have a lot to offer. Please help us increase membership by passing the word that ESP is here to increase professional development for everyone – to make our lives easier and more productive.

Sincerely,

Vincent J. Mannino,  
2014 President of ESP-Alpha Zeta (Texas)

### In this Issue:

	<u>Page</u>
Greetings from 2014 President, Vincent Mannino	1
Agent Resources - Available Now & Coming Soon	2
Words of Wisdom: Survival Tips for Extension Educators	2
Billy Warwick's Corner	3
2013 Award Recipients	3
Spring 2014: Board Minutes and Notes	4
Benefits of Membership	

Visit the *New and Improved* Website:  
<http://www.TexasESP.org>

## Agent Resources - [www.texasesp.org](http://www.texasesp.org)

*The following is a list of personal and professional development presentations that are available to agents on the ESP website. Thanks to Mr. Mannino and all who worked so hard to compile these excellent agent resources.*

### Available NOW

1. Ag Awareness - Plants
2. Water Use in Texas
3. Careers in Extension
4. Attracting Wildlife
5. IPM Toolbox
6. Alternate Bearing in Pecans
7. Snakes in the Garden
8. Poisonous Plants in the Landscape
9. BLT - Dining at the Dollar Store
10. Organic Gardening Made Simple
11. Orientation for Master Volunteers
12. IPM for Professionals
13. Centennial Celebration & Honoring Volunteers
14. General Pesticide Terms
15. Restoring Hurricane Damage Trees
16. Heirloom Vegetables
17. BLT - Living Without Electricity

### Coming SOON

1. Backyard Basics - Chickens
2. Backyard Basics - Soil Preparation
3. Backyard Basics - Edible Landscapes
4. Backyard Basics - Rabbits
5. Backyard Basics - Earthworms
6. BLT - Feeding Your Family Without Starving Your Wallet
7. BLT - Go Lean on Protein
8. BLT - Meal Planning Made Easy
9. BLT - Pantry Pests
10. Bugs Nature and You
11. Butterflies
12. Careers in Extension - Middle School Students
13. Container Gardening
14. Landscaping for Home Security
15. Landscaping for the Birds
16. Moonlit Gardens
17. Nutritive Value on Homegrown Veggies & Fruits
18. Plant Pests
19. Reducing Pesticide Drift
20. Risk Management in Extension
21. Shrubs for City Life
22. Shrubs for the Landscape
23. Soil Preparation
24. Spring Gardening
25. The Dust Bowl
26. Tree & Shrub Diseases
27. Tree & Shrub Irrigation During Drought
28. Turf - Fertilizing
29. Turf - Pests
30. Turf - Irrigation
31. Urban Trees
32. Vegetable Gardening
33. Controlling Vegetation on Levees

## Words of Wisdom - Survival Tips for Extension Educators

### 1. Know your county -- the people and communities and their customs (norms). Get to know the court house culture, too.

- ◆ Respect the “norms” of the county cluster.
- ◆ Be visible. Meet people in your county
- ◆ Respect the diversity of people’s ideas, opinions and cultures
- ◆ Effective educators interact with lots of people, yet they recognize that it is impossible to please everyone all the time

### 2. Build relationships.

- ◆ Seek out other’s opinions
- ◆ Listen and don’t judge others
- ◆ Avoid making negative comments about anyone -- it may come back to haunt you.
- ◆ Keep others informed -- make sure people know what you are doing and why you are doing it.
- ◆ Don’t be afraid to ask questions.
- ◆ Make connections with the local media -- gain their trust as a source of unbiased, factual information.
- ◆ LISTEN to the public and decision makers for program ideas. Don’t just work on your “pet” projects.

**These tips have been developed by the Minnesota Association of Extension Educators to help you be successful in your career as a professional Extension Educator.**

## Billy Warwick's Corner

Can you retire from Extension? Absolutely. I have my blood family, church family, new involvements, activities, events and travels that fill the gap. However, I would be short changing myself to stay away from Extension. So I don't. Maintaining contact is more difficult, but not impossible. Epsilon Sigma Phi allows me the opportunity to keep in contact with friends and to meet new people across the United States. There is no doubt that Extension has changed. The number of people wanting part of the tax dollars has increased, state populations have increased, demand for Extension programming has increased; while funding and staff has decreased. More than ever Extension employees have to apply the successful programs developed by others. What better way to share what you know and learn what others have developed than through the Extension Elite that make up the membership of Epsilon Sigma Phi. As a retiree I contribute where I can; a word of sincere encouragement, a knowing ear, and respect for the people doing the job of today's Extension is valuable and worth our investment of time and resources.



### ESP 2013 Award Recipients



**Early Career Service Award  
Team Award - Vegetable Conference**

**Michael Potter  
Corrie Bowen  
Dr. William M. Johnson,  
J. Cody Dennison**

**Alexis Cordova  
James "Boone" Holladay  
Major W. Stevenson, Jr.  
Robert "Skip" Richter**

**Retiree Service Award  
Friend of Extension Award  
Diversity Recognition - Team**

**Marilyn Sebesta  
Gaye Hammond  
Tonya McKenzie  
Dr. Allen Malone  
Ricky Mahaley**

**Dr. Sonja Stueart-Davis  
Sheryl Nolen  
Marcus Glenn**

**Distinguished Service Award  
Mid-Career Service Award  
Continued Excellence Award  
Diversity Award**

**Amy Ressler  
Dr. Sonja Stueart-Davis  
Michael E. Heimer  
Fralonda W. Anderson**

**Dr. Allen Malone**

**Tenure 25 Years  
Meritorious Support Service Award**

**Elizabeth Trejo  
Melissa Mewa**

**Kim Peveto**

Don't wait on others to tell your story. All members are encouraged to apply for Awards. No one knows what you do better than you so please share your story and successes. To review awards and criteria visit: [www.texasesp.org](http://www.texasesp.org)

⇒ Resources Tab/Awards Section:

2014 Award Entry Requirements

2014 Award Nomination Forms in Word Perfect or Word

*April-June 2014*

## SPRING BOARD “Hot Topics” Minutes

- ◆ During the Board meeting, we discussed the District Directors responsibilities and the importance of all Districts having representation during the meetings.
- ◆ The Southern Region Awards were judged and submitted. The recipients are recognized in the May-June ESP Connection and will receive their awards during the National Meeting Indianapolis, Indiana.
- ◆ Personal and Professional Development presentations are available on the ESP website for agents to use during programming.
- ◆ Agent Concerns were noted and discussed with administrators present.

### Membership

- ◆ Mr. Mannino’s goal as president is to increase the membership throughout the State and inform individuals of the benefits of membership. He would like to start with administration, RPDs and Mentors by encouraging them to include ESP as a professional organization for agents to join in addition to TCAAA, 4-H and FCS.
- ◆ Awards and Recognitions are important for career ladder promotion and ESP offers great awards and recognition opportunities.
- ◆ Some agents don’t join ESP because counties only pay for membership, causing agents to have to pay out of pocket.
- ◆ New agents don’t know the benefits of ESP membership and existing members, mentors and supervisors should inform them.
- ◆ Mr. Mannino will visit with Jeff Ripley about promoting ESP during new agents orientation.

### Billy Warwick’s Report

- ◆ He provided a report on lifetime memberships and recommended that Directors contact retired members to invite them to educational programs. Retirees meet the first Monday in December annually.

### PCR – Is it justifiable? PCR discussions and questions?

- ◆ Recommend a visible chart for agents to see where the funds will go and how agents and the agency benefit.
- ◆ Recommend that a percent of PCR funds made by a county should be returned to the county.

To see the Minutes in Detail visit the ESP website at <http://www.TexasESP.org>

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

### District

August 15                      District Meritorious Service Award Nominations

### State:

Sept. 1 – Oct. 15              *Deadline for State ESP Awards*

December 1                      *Scholarship and Grants Applications Deadline*

December 2-3                      Winter Boards, Brownwood, Texas

### National:

7/31      Early Bird Registration ends for National ESP Conference

10/6-9      National Epsilon Sigma Phi, Indianapolis, Indiana