

# espconnection

Number CX

The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

October 2009

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If you received this newsletter in the mail and you have an email address, consider sending your email address to [esppoffice@espnational.org](mailto:esppoffice@espnational.org) so we can hold down the cost of mailing the newsletter!

## Message from the National President

Cassandra Corridon, ESP National President

Special thanks to North Dakota for hosting our 2009 National Meeting! It was a wonderful opportunity to network with colleagues from across the country, to benefit from professional development – both as presenters building vitae and as Extension educators honing skills - and to profit from sharing mutual concerns and means to deal with common challenges affecting Extension in the current environment. Thanks to all of you who made the effort it took to attend this year, particularly, and to those of you who could not join us in Fargo, thanks to Billy Warrick and his ability to capture it in pictures! (<http://espnational.org/2009NationalMeeting/Pictures/index.htm>)

As we start another Epsilon Sigma Phi year it continues to be increasingly important that we pool our collective resources – knowledge above all - and together build a stronger, more viable, responsive Extension System. Your ESP Board met with 14 Extension administrators during the National Meeting. These administrators spoke of their local situations and strategies being developed to respond to current demands. We, your Board, asked how ESP can respond to the demands of the Extension System and the Extension professional. It is our mission, it is our goal, and it is possible working in concert with our Extension administration.



*(Continued on page 2)*



## “Making a Difference,” Dr James Lindquist, 2009 Distinguished Ruby Award Recipient

and Assistant Director, K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University

Each year a highlight of the ESP National Conference is the presentation of the Distinguished Service Ruby Award. The Ruby Award, as it is more commonly referred to, is the highest honor bestowed on a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi. The Ruby recipient is an individual nominated and selected by Extension peers for excellence in Extension work on a local, statewide, regional, and even a national basis. This year's recipient

certainly has demonstrated professionalism and provided leadership to the Extension System at all of these levels. Beginning his Extension career as a county faculty member of the Kansas State Extension System, Dr. Lindquist set his sights on a higher post in the organization serving in various administrative posts until retiring last July as Associate Director for Field Operations.

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## Greetings from the Executive Director

Bob Ohlensehlen, National Executive Director

Since this is my first edition as editor of the *ESP Connection* I would like to take this opportunity to say "Greetings" to all of our 7,000+ members. Since retiring nearly five years ago I have missed my association with Extension colleagues across the country. I am excited about the opportunity to serve the members of Epsilon Sigma Phi as your new Executive Director. I am honored to follow in the path of the previous Executive Directors who have contributed so much to our organization.

I will be assisted in the performance of the Executive Director duties by my trusty assistant, Jeana Kienzle. Jeana and I have worked together for nearly 20 years, first in my Extension position and now as my assistant with ESP. Many of you have already met Jeana through emails and phone calls to the National Office. Just a reminder, our office hours are 8:00am – 5:00pm (Mountain Time Zone), Monday through Friday. Our phone number is 208-736-4495, our fax number is 208-736-1916 and you can reach us by email at [espoffice@espnational.org](mailto:espoffice@espnational.org).

We just finished a great annual conference last month in Fargo, North Dakota. The host state did an excellent job of locating an outstanding facility and planning great activities for all of the conference attendees. The program was superb.

Congratulations to the Professional Development Committee who did a great job of planning an exciting conference. Conference attendees had the opportunity to say "thanks" and to wish National Executive Director Linda Cook well as she retired from the Executive Director position she has held for 9 years.

Members and friends contributed over \$2,000 to the Endowment Fund in Linda's name. Gifts that Linda received included a hammock for her summer home in North Carolina, a digital picture frame loaded with pictures from Linda's time as Executive Director and numerous other tokens of appreciation for her dedicated service to ESP. Best wishes in retirement, Linda!

We are just beginning the membership drive for the new year. Membership dues that are received between December 1, 2009 and February 1, 2010 will be used to determine the number of voting delegates for the 2010 meeting which will be held in Jackson, Wyoming, October 12-15<sup>th</sup>.

During the past several months we have been working to develop a new ESP website. The end result of the project will be a "new-look" [espnational.org](http://espnational.org) website. In order to minimize interruptions in using the existing site, the new site was created at [espnational.com](http://espnational.com). We are currently in the process of moving the old site to the new site but we are experiencing some technical difficulties in the transition. Please bear with us!

(Bob can be reached by email at [espoffice@espnational.org](mailto:espoffice@espnational.org).)

## Important Dates Ahead

### Mark Your Calendar!



- 2010 JCEP Regional Meetings, February 2-4, Nashville, Tennessee
- 2010 PILD Conference, April 26-28, Arlington, Virginia
- 2010 National ESP Conference, October 10-15, Jackson Hole, Wyoming
- 2011 National ESP Conference, October 9-13, Syracuse, New York
- 2012 National ESP Conference, October 6-9, Mobile, Alabama

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Epsilon Sigma Phi is for me, the Extension professional, regardless of discipline, regardless of tenure, regardless of position/salary. We are drawn together because we share a passion for education, an understanding of the land grant mission, and a willingness to stretch ourselves in order to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

This year we are "Climbing to New Heights." It's not a choice, it's a necessity. As we work through 2010 together, your National Board will depend on each of you, our membership, our national committees, our chapter leadership. We will be responsive to your input. We are in the midst of building/strengthening lines of communication. Our website has been changed to reflect our desire to be open/transparent and helpful. Adding webinars and CONNECT sessions for meetings has been a response to the tightened professional development allocations. Life member and leadership tracks at national meetings speak to the needs of our membership and our Extension administrators.

Your National Board functions for you, our membership. We have monthly Board conference calls or CONNECT sessions. Our national committees have, in most cases, monthly meetings via a conference call or CONNECT session. All are open to our membership. We welcome your input. Help us serve you and the Extension profession. At the national meeting we were asked if Board Members still visit chapters, and the response was – ask us, and we will respond. My goal this year as your National President is to respond to your needs, to focus on professional development sessions that respond to your personal needs and the needs of your county, regional and state Extension systems. In order to be responsive I look to each of you for guidance, suggestions and direction. We are proud to serve as YOUR National Board. I look forward to hearing from you.

(Sandy Corridon can be reached by email at [corridon@umd.edu](mailto:corridon@umd.edu).)

## Global Relations Update from Fargo

Justen Smith, Outgoing Global Relations Committee Chair

A warm welcome goes to Marilyn Ming from Nevada. Marilyn was appointed as the new ESP Western Region Vice President and Chair of the National Global Relations Committee. Marilyn is replacing Justen Smith who was elected as the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. A warm welcome also goes to the new National Global Relations Committee Members. They include Bill Million (Illinois), Janice Hartough (Michigan), Rose Merkwowitz (Ohio), Lillian Larwood (Oregon), Roger Sherer (Indiana), Karol Dyson (Maryland), Kendra Wells (Maryland), and Liz Kingsland (Kentucky). The new Global Relations Committee met during the recent National ESP Conference that was held in Fargo. A new Plan of Work for 2010 was developed and committee members chose to pursue diversity and cultural education emphasis, in addition to international Extension opportunities. The Global Relations Committee is seeking stories from all of the ESP chapters that deal with successful international activities completed by Extension faculty, as well as successful domestic cultural education/diversity education programs. Please e-mail stories, internet links, or hard copies of any great international-related activities. Opportunities on international study tours and/or exchanges taking place that Extension employees could participate in would be appreciated as well. Please send this information to Marilyn Ming at [mingm@unce.unr.edu](mailto:mingm@unce.unr.edu). Please be sure to check out the "Go Global" link on the ESP Website to access organizations offering international opportunities.

*(Justen can be reached by email at [justen.smith@usu.edu](mailto:justen.smith@usu.edu).)*

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Jim served as Epsilon Sigma Phi President during 2000-2001. It was on his watch that the National Conference was to have been in New York State just a few days after the 9-11 disaster, and it was under his leadership that the organization made the difficult decision to cancel the meeting. The days following provided significant challenges to avert a financial disaster for our organization due the cancellation, but under Jim's leadership, ESP came through with minimal losses.

As ESP members we can all be proud of Jim's accomplishments on behalf of the Extension System and on behalf of Epsilon Sigma Phi. To read the Distinguished Ruby Lecture that Jim delivered during the luncheon, please go to the ESP website at [espnational.org](http://espnational.org), select the "Resources" tab and then select "Ruby Lectures." Congratulations, Jim, on a job well done!

*(Jim Lindquist can be reached by email at [jimlindqui@cox.net](mailto:jimlindqui@cox.net).)*

## ESP—Membership is Sweet Music

Reprinted with permission from Janice Stimpson, Idaho

We have all heard the old adage about "preaching to the choir," meaning we are selling our message to a group who already believes in our message. As an Epsilon Sigma Phi member, I am pretty sure I am preaching to the choir...if you are reading this article. Those who do not belong to the choir (even if they are ESP members) have put the *ESP Connection* in the to-be-read-when-things-slow-down pile. With the busy schedules all of us have, that particular pile never seems to get read.

So how do we get the word to our colleagues that Epsilon Sigma Phi is more than another set of dues to pay or another line on the vitae? I cannot find any cute acronyms to get the message across but here are a few tips that might work.

- REACH OUT - Target your audience. Blanket invitations to join ESP are not as effective as a personal invitation from a colleague and friend.
- PERSONALIZE YOUR MESSAGE - Examples of the benefits you have gained are a real selling point in getting new members.
- SHARE THE WEALTH - Sharing the messages and materials from national meetings is a great way to introduce people to ESP.
- PERCEPTION - Let people know that ESP's mission is different from those associations whose focus is on subject matter. ESP's commitment to leadership and professional development are the foundation upon which a career is built.
- POSITIVE ATTITUDE - Be upbeat and positive when you talk about Epsilon Sigma Phi. Never miss a chance to point out the advantages of being a member of ESP.
- INVOLVEMENT - If someone is already a member then involvement in the chapter and eventually at a higher level is the best way of retaining them as members.

Membership and involvement in Epsilon Sigma Phi gives us a voice and a unity in Extension regardless of programming focus and career stages. We choir members need to get our message out. We need to sing loudly, clearly and joyfully!

*(Janice Stimpson can be reached by email at [jstimpson@uidaho.edu](mailto:jstimpson@uidaho.edu).)*



## State Chapters in Need of Program Ideas - 5 Strategies

Deborah Thomason, Chapter Relations Committee

Are you racking your brain about what to do at your state annual ESP meeting?

1. Invite a national board member or a national committee member to visit your meeting and share information about the professional development opportunities in Epsilon Sigma Phi. National officers can visit chapters on a rotating basis and national committee members are located in 25 states and can address issues that are relevant to their committee service.
2. Invite chapter members who have presented a professional development session at a national meeting of ESP or any of our brother/sister organizations to conduct a workshop at your state meeting.
3. Offer a registration discount for participants who are willing to participate in a poster/exhibit session during the meeting. It's a great way to share ideas and program successes!
4. Utilize some of the many resources available from the National Office, such as officer training modules, new ESP branding materials, and exhibits to promote ESP to new and prospective ESP members.
5. Highlight your ESP Life Members and spotlight their contributions to the past success of your organization. Encourage them to provide suggestions for promoting and enhancing opportunities for more life member engagement and participation.

Need additional ideas on how to improve your chapter professional development annual meeting? Contact members of your national board. We are here to serve you!

*(Deborah Thomason can be reached by email at [DTHMSN@clmson.edu](mailto:DTHMSN@clmson.edu).)*

## Is There Life After Extension?

Michael McKinney (Florida), ESP Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee

**Attention all you Life Members and Retirees!** Did you know that retirees now comprise over half of our national ESP membership? Retirement often brings about changes in personal and professional priorities. Can Epsilon Sigma Phi still play an important role in our retirement status? With your help we're about to find out. Included in this newsletter is a survey for all Life Members and Retirees. We urge you to take a few minutes and complete the survey and return it by the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. You can either post and mail your response or email your survey form. The data obtained will help your National ESP Board and our Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee to better determine how to address Life Member/Retiree issues at the national level. Do you currently feel you are getting a positive return on your ESP Life Member dues? Let us know by returning the survey.

The ESP Family & Friends Leisure Cruise in 2008 to the Caribbean was a huge success and the upcoming Panama

## What ESP Has Meant to Me During My Career

Patricia Powley, Alpha Omicron Chapter, PA

I could hardly wait to join Epsilon Sigma Phi when it was deemed that I was eligible. It was, as is, an organization that represents all aspects of Cooperative Extension and it was helpful to make associations with co-workers of different disciplines. It didn't take me long to become actively involved. My most favorite part was attending the National ESP meetings where making contact with Extension employees from all across the United States was extremely beneficial.

Over the years the quality of workshop sessions improved and when I became a County Extension Director, I found the sessions on leadership particularly helpful. Even though I have attended NEAFCS annual sessions (38 out of 39) during my Extension career and now as a Life Member, where the majority of concurrent sessions related to subject matter, I always looked forward to attending the National ESP meetings at my own expense. I missed very few national meetings since I attended my first one in the early 80s. Becoming National President was just icing on the cake! Working with other officers from cross disciplines was fantastic.

I'm still actively involved with ESP on the national level as a member of the Scholarship, Grants, and Recognition Committee which is very rewarding for keeping in touch while a retiree. I'm very disappointed that the National ESP meeting and NEAFCS were held at the same time this year. I missed ESP's meeting because of an obligation that I have with NEAFCS as their 75th Anniversary Committee Chair.

On a final note, being a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi is the best "investment" an Extension educator can make. The benefits will double in value through an education that you can't always obtain otherwise.

*(Patricia Powley can be reached by email [ppowley85@wmconnect](mailto:ppowley85@wmconnect).)*

Canal cruise in January promises to be even bigger. The cruises are just tips of the iceberg (pardon the analogy) of the many opportunities that can be available to retirees through our professional ESP organization.

If the data supports the theory that Life Members are looking for new ways to get involved in ESP, then a proposal will be submitted to the Board to establish a standing National Life Member & Retirees Committee to plan, implement and host opportunities for our retired members. As Life Members we also need to fund the committee through voluntary donations. The only way we can move forward on this proposal is to receive your responses to this survey. **PLEASE** do it today. Retirement is no excuse for stopping the learning process. Lifelong learning opportunities will be a major focus of this effort.

Thank you for the many years of service you gave to Extension and ESP. Now's the time to start expanding your horizons in a slightly different professional endeavor. (Mike McKinney can be reached by email at [mckcar@msn.com](mailto:mckcar@msn.com).)

## Scholarship Winner Reports on National Conference

Danny L. Cain, Administrative/Leadership Scholarship Winner, Walker County Extension Coordinator

What a fantastic experience the National ESP Conference provided all who participated, not only us "first-timers" but for those who have participated in previous national conferences as well. The theme "Engage, Enlighten, and Enjoy" is relevant to each of us who do Extension work in our various states and subject matter areas and was reflected throughout the entire conference.

During the conference we were challenged to engage not only other Extension professionals by sharing programs, ideas, and challenges, but also to carry out the mission of cooperative Extension in our local communities back home by reaching diverse audiences across disciplines with programs that are relevant and that address the needs of the clients that we serve.

The professional development opportunities enlightened us through workshops on ESP chapter leadership, funding opportunities, working with diverse audiences, and many other topics which challenged us to look for opportunities even during tough economic times.

We enjoyed experiencing the proud culture and scenic beauty of North Dakota. It is through enjoying other cultures and locations that we can gain a better understanding of the global world in which we deliver Extension programming.

Congratulations to North Dakota's Upsilon Chapter of ESP for hosting a very positive, productive, and enjoyable national conference that was filled with opportunities for engagement, enlightenment, and enjoyment. I would like to challenge each member of Epsilon Sigma Phi to make it a goal to participate in a future national ESP conference.

There are also many opportunities through ESP's various award and scholarship programs which can make your participation even easier. The personal and professional benefits through the contacts that you make, the Extension professional development opportunities, and the opportunity to experience the diverse richness of Extension programming nationally will help to strengthen our local programming efforts and make each of us better Extension professionals.

*(Danny Cain can be reached by email at [dcain@aces.edu](mailto:dcain@aces.edu).)*

## Scholarships, Grants and Recognitions Committee Report

Mary Ellen Blackburn, Committee Chair



Epsilon Sigma Phi has just completed a successful year culminating with a great conference in Fargo! We were pleased to recognize so many outstanding members as a result of chapter nominations.

It was also great to see some of our scholarship recipients benefitting from participation at the meeting! Now it's time to begin

thinking about 2010 – who will be recognized at Jackson Hole? I hope it's you and your colleagues!

It's not too early to start thinking about submitting applications for scholarships and mini-grants. Chapter representatives can also be thinking about submissions for each category of regional recognitions.

If you don't initiate the process, it won't happen! Start thinking now about what ESP can offer you and your chapter in 2010!

For information check out Section E of the National Handbook on the new ESP website at <http://espnational.com/images/handbook/sectione-2009.pdf>

If you have any questions contact Mary Ellen Blackburn at [meblack@uga.edu](mailto:meblack@uga.edu).

## Highlights of Fargo 2009 - Honoring the Dedication and Service of Linda Cook

We enjoyed every opportunity to recognize Linda and her 9 years as our ESP Executive Director. Well, the party goes on. Linda will officially retire at the end of 2009. Those in Fargo shared in the celebration. Those of you who contributed to the gift for Linda should know that we put your money to good use. We presented Linda with a daily token of our appreciation – flowers in her room, chocolate treats, a Fargo Christmas ornament, a 2009 Collector's set of coins, Black Hills Gold earrings, and at our closing session, a special pictorial presentation was made with the group gift of a hammock and digital picture frame, both with appropriate plaques recognizing her years with ESP. For those of you who were not in Fargo to join this celebration we have initiated a "Group Card." Follow this link and you, too, can post a message of thanks / congratulations to Linda on the occasion of her retirement.

<http://www.groupcard.com/c/0Y7YOLftvT3>

## “Walk the Talk” Pilot Survey in Missouri

Barbara Buffaloe, University of Missouri

As you know, we are conducting a baseline survey of what Extension offices are doing to practice sustainable living behaviors. This will help answer the question “How can we encourage more people to get involved in more ways?” We have piloted the survey with Extension specialists in Missouri. So far, I have received 32 responses. Some of the findings are:

Seventy-five percent of respondents of MU Extension’s “Walk the Talk” survey responded that their office reduced, reused and recycled their waste by:

- Printing on both sides of the paper
- Using reusable dishes
- Recycling glass
- Recycling office paper
- Recycling cardboard

In addition, over 50% of total respondents said that their office also recycled aluminum and used less paper by printing less. To conserve energy, 88% of the offices responding turn their computers off over the weekend. Sixty-one percent of total respondents turn their printers off overnight. Less than 50% adjust their thermostat when no one is in the office. Also on the low side, 30% turn their computers on standby when away from the desk. Over 75% of respondents practice sustainable eating behaviors by eating leftovers from home for lunch. Sixty-one percent prefer foods that are in season for their office meals. Fifty-eight percent of respondents carpool to their programs. Even better than this are the 70% and 72% who carpool to Extension staff meetings and conferences, respectively. Only 30% walk to lunch and 18% walk to work. However, 70% do combine errands to reduce car trips. Some of the additional behaviors from offices were using Energy star-rated equipment, buying organic foods, questioning everything they buy, living close, driving hybrids or other fuel-efficient cars, etc. (*Barbara can be reached by email at [BuffaloeB@missouri.edu](mailto:BuffaloeB@missouri.edu).)*

## Can You Beat This for Dedication?

Phyllis B. Lewis, Eta Chapter, WY

What Extension educator has the longest working tenure? If you answered Stella McKinstry, you would be correct! Stella is a lifetime member of both ESP and NEAFCS (National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences).

With a career in Extension that spans over sixty years, Stella was recognized at Galaxy in Salt Lake City as the longest working Extension educator in the entire United States. Even with that notoriety, she continued to work until April, 2006 when she decided it was time for her to hit the road in her RV and do more traveling.

Stella was born to Linda and Harold McKinstry in a homestead that is now part of Grand Teton National Park. She still resides in Pinedale, which is the county seat of Sublette County, where Stella was the Home Demonstration Agent, the Home Economist, the Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educator and, at her retirement, was the area’s Nutrition and Food Safety Extension Educator.

Jan Scholl (PA) wrote the following funny story Stella told on herself. It seems Stella once took rising bread on a city bus to a food demonstration site in Denver. Asked by a man, what was under the cloth, she replied “dough” (the man thought she had money!).

Colorado nearly landed this lifelong learner and educator by offering her a starting salary of \$1,800, but Wyoming upped the ante to \$2,100 and the \$300 difference won Stella over to our side.

Stella was an agent-at-large in Albany, Niobrara, Fremont, Lincoln, Natrona, and Goshen counties during 1946, her first year on the job, and then she worked in Platte County until 1952 before moving back to her home county of Sublette.

In many ways, Stella’s life was different from most women at the time because she was single, had a car, and was independent. Stella said her first car was a four-door Ford that cost her \$600! This independence has enabled her to travel extensively to Australia, New Zealand, Jerusalem, Virgin Islands, Belgium, Holland, France, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, Alaska, South America, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Mediterranean and many places in between. Since retirement she has enjoyed a cruise through the Panama Canal (plus other sites too numerous to list). If you call Stella and, over a period of a few days you are unable to reach her on the phone, she is probably on another one of her trips!

In 1956 Stella was initiated into ESP membership. In 1957 she was elected to the position of second vice president of what is now NEAFCS, and this year she worked on their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee.

Several years ago one of her co-workers laughed when he said that Stella was one of the first people to learn how to use a pressure canner and how to properly make mattresses, but on the trip to that particular meeting she had been in the bookstore buying a book on using the latest word processing system available.

That’s Stella! As her good friend, Mary Martin in Teton County, says “She’s a person you are glad to know. For a long time, she’s been the matriarch of our Extension ‘family.’ People who know her are better for having her in their lives.” (*Phyllis Lewis can be reached by email at [pblewis@uwyo.edu](mailto:pblewis@uwyo.edu).)*

## Epsilon Sigma Phi Life Member & Retirees Survey

Conducted by:  
ESP Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee

Dear Fellow Life Members and Retirees:

Did you know that Life Members now comprise over half of our national ESP membership? In recognition of this fact the National ESP Board has asked your Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee to investigate the needs/wants/issues of Life Members/Retirees. The Board, working with the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee, will utilize the data from the survey to determine how to best address Life Member/Retiree issues at the national level.

You can play a major role in identifying issues by taking a few minutes of your time to complete the following survey and mailing your responses back by ***December 15, 2009***. Thank you ESP Life Members!

### Life Member & Retirees Survey

1. Do you currently feel you are getting a positive return on your ESP Life Member dues?:
 

Yes       No       No opinion
  
2. Retirement often brings change and shifts in personal and professional priorities. Please rank the following items (1 through 7) as being most important to you currently and what you would like a new Life Member and Retirees Committee to address:
 

Professional Development     Lifelong Learning Opportunities     Volunteering     Serving as a support base for ESP and Extension Issues.

Retirement issues (healthcare/investments/monitoring changes in retirement pensions)

Networking with other senior organizations like AARP and NARFE

List other items important to you: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Would you be willing to support this committee and these efforts with a small voluntary annual donation in order to better represent and serve the needs of ESP Life Members?
 

Yes     No      (If yes, at what level of support?:    \_\_\_\$5.00      \_\_\_\$10.00      \$ \_\_\_Other)
  
4. What would make you more inclined to attend a National ESP Conference as a Life Member?:
 

Location                       Costs                       Tours & Activities                       Senior Issue Seminars & Workshops

Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Would you be willing to serve on a National Committee to address these issues?:  Yes  No If you said yes, please give us your name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. What is your #1 hobby?: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete by December 15th, stamp and mail to Mike McKinney, 1850 Ravenridge St., Wesley Chapel, FL 33543 or email to [mckcar@msn.com](mailto:mckcar@msn.com).*

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## **Public Issues in the Southern States**

Laura W. Wilson, National ESP Public Issues Committee, KY

Every Extension employee is aware of the importance of having a well developed working relationship with key decision makers. Southern states use a variety of techniques to communicate and build rapport with elected officials. Arkansas hosts a late afternoon legislative reception every other year for state representatives and senators while in session. The event is planned and conducted by the five professional associations. Administrators attend the event which features displays of programming. They found a 5 PM to 8 PM reception to be better attended than previously held legislative breakfasts.

Kentucky has developed several activities to maintain rapport with elected officials. The County Judge-Executives' Breakfast, hosted by JCEP, is held annually in conjunction with the judge's association meeting. The Country Kitchen is conducted annually during the legislators' training session. Kentucky-produced food products are used to convey the continued importance of supporting sustainable agriculture. During the legislative session, over 500 youth and adults from across the state meet at the state capital to visit with individual legislators and the governor. Many counties have developed appreciation events for conveying their

educational programming to city, county and state elected officials. Leaders are trained on how to work effectively with elected officials.

Texas maintains a visibility with local, county and state officials at the twice a year county commissioners and county judges meetings of the Texas Association of Counties, sessions designed to update officials on critical issues. Four Extension associations cover expenses for one of the meeting's breaks. During the break agents from various program areas interact with the elected officials and exhibits provide information on Extension programming.

In Louisiana Extension professional associations have developed specific approaches to communicating with elected officials. LAE4-HA takes the lead in a school superintendents' breakfast. LEAFCS provides leadership for two booths at the annual Police Jury (county government) meeting, featuring Louisiana food products and program information. The State Legislative Fete', held at the capitol rotunda and featuring Louisiana foods and programming information, is supported by all associations. Southern states, as with all regions, utilize the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference as an opportunity to interact with federal elected officials. *(Laura Wilson can be reached by email at [lwilson@uky.edu](mailto:lwilson@uky.edu).)*