

espconnection

Number CXLIII

The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

February/March 2017

President's Message

Kathleen Tweeten, National ESP President



Kathleen Tweeten

Dear ESP Members, February 1 was the deadline for chapters to submit membership and dues. We know that it is sometimes difficult to notify individuals when membership is due. It is important that memberships are submitted on a timely basis so that your chapter gets credit for your membership. There were several chapter awards and individual scholarships due March 1 that we didn't want your members to miss out on. We've struggled with this for years because chapter membership chairs and treasurers change at different times in our states and so miss some of the deadline notices. Therefore, the board has voted to move to a totally online membership system for 2018. Several

chapters have already gone online and after a few blips (thanks to the early adapters for their willingness to help smooth out the process) we feel that this system will better serve our members. You will be able to go online and renew your membership yourself. Payment of dues will include both state and national associations and if you want to be part of an affiliation group you can choose that now as well. Reimbursements will be made to each state and/or affiliation group in March. Our Executive Director, Bob Ohlensehlen is working on a webinar with instructions for enrolling. We'll let you know when it's finished.

Thank you to those who participated, presented and enjoyed our ESP time together and the JCEP Leadership Conference in Orlando in February. What

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ESP Scholarship and Grant Deadlines Approaching

Patricia Dawson, National Past President and Chair of Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee

We hope your chapter submitted state award nominees by the March 1 deadline. Now that those awards are submitted consider applying for professional development funds for yourself or your chapter. May 1 is the deadline to apply for the following:

Art Redinger Administrator Leader Scholarship - Four \$500 scholarships are awarded for outstanding administrators/ leaders (at any level...county or state) to attend the National ESP Conference. Applicants must be first-time attendees to the ESP National Conference. Eligible recipients include county, regional, state, national and program administrators/ leaders.

ESP Professional Development Grants – These are team/ chapter awards that address the professional needs of Extension personnel. At least half of the project team must be

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Enhancing Professional Development Experiences through ESP Grant Funding

Kenneth Jones, Professional Development Committee Member and Alpha Kappa Chapter/KY Member

If your chapter is seeking ways to take advantage of professional development opportunities, but is in need of resources, then consider applying for the professional development grant offered through the National Epsilon Sigma Phi. The purpose of the Epsilon Sigma Phi Professional Development Grant is to perpetuate the personal growth of Extension professionals. Each year, the National Epsilon Sigma Phi provides opportunities for chapters to submit proposals that highlight interdisciplinary projects that aim to appeal to a broad Extension audience. Funding is provided through the ESP Development Fund, with at least four, \$1,000 grants being available annually. The proposals are peer reviewed within a competitive process.

In 2016, the Alpha Kappa (Kentucky) Chapter submitted a proposal, soliciting funding to support its annual events. Each year, the chapter hosts an annual meeting, as well as an in-service training day. Last year, the chapter decided to identify and invite a speaker that would assist in helping Extension professionals be more

intentional about reporting and evaluation. In addition, there was a need to better communicate to stakeholders the extraordinary work and impact Extension continues to make upon the lives of all Kentuckians. The in-service training was also open to all Extension employees, including non-ESP members. This adds to the mission of ESP, providing professional development opportunities for all, while also serving as an opportunity to recruit new members.

Robin Adams Cheeley, a former agriculture communications specialist with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and current CEO of WriteRight Consulting, served as the keynote speaker and trainer for the statewide in-service training. The session was developed specifically for Kentucky Extension professionals and the speaker worked with the project team to ensure that the session met its objective to inspire current and potential members. As a result, the four-hour training was successful in

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National ESP Leadership Opportunities - Due April 1st!

Patricia Dawson, National Past President and Chair of Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee

Stepping up to serve in national ESP leadership role was one of the best decisions of my professional career. It has provided me the opportunity for growth as a professional and more importantly, the opportunity to develop new skills and wonderful friendships by working with colleagues from across the nation. With spring in the air it is time to begin thinking about our upcoming elections for the 2018 National Board.

Application packets are now being accepted for the Western Region Vice President, the Northeast Region Vice President and the 2nd National Vice President - from the Western Region. Letters of Support from your chapter president and Extension director, as well as a brief video, are expected as components of your applications. The deadline is April 1st (no kidding!) followed by an opportunity for chapters to cast their national ballots prior to May 15th.

I would encourage each of you to step up to the plate and apply to serve in an ESP national leadership position. Rest assured, you will gain far more than you give. Feel free to contact me at patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu or any member of the national board if you have any questions.

Visit the ESP website at
www.espnational.org

Global Relations and International Opportunities

Beth Claypoole, National President-Elect and Global Relations Committee Chair

The Global Relations Committee meets about every other month, depending on the need. Committee members are actively seeking out international projects that we could support through some type of collection of supplies or funds. In addition, we will be updating our ESP website page and planning another webinar this year with the focus of the "international database" – more explanation to come!

In the meantime, we welcome others interested in "internationalizing Extension" to join our Zoom conference calls. Please forward your interest to me at eac9@cornell.edu. We welcome international opportunities that you have so that we can share with our

membership. We have no way of reaching out to every state global relations committee because we do not ask you to identify that person or team, nor do you report it in any of the online chapter registration information. The best way to get the international news is to forward an email directly to me so that you can get on the committee email. Also, be sure to reach out to your region's representatives on the committee. All of the 2017 committees are listed on the ESP website.

Some info to share: The Michigan ESP Alpha Psi Chapter invites you to join them on an educational journey in Haiti. This trip will take place November 12-20, 2017. Highlights include: visit to the

Island of La Gonave; agriculture development; community development; art and culture; grassroots community development; and a visit to the Citadelle. The flyer with more information on the trip is located on the Global Relations page on the ESP website. Contact Dixie Sandborn for more information: dixie@msu.edu or 517-526-0628.

Thanks so much to Michigan for sharing this opportunity! Please reach out to me with more information so we can help share the knowledge about internationalizing Extension.

Beth Claypoole can be reached by email at eac9@cornell.edu.

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients!

Patricia Dawson, National Past President and Chair of Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee

Epsilon Sigma Phi offers many member benefits including a variety of generous professional development scholarships. The Scholarship, Grants and Recognition Committee is pleased to announce the following honorees based on our December application deadline.

2017 Recipients of the Richard R. Angus Professional Development Scholarship:

- Travis West, OH - To attend a Poverty Institute Training in OR
- Jeffrey Myers, MD - To attend the Cultivating Change Summit in CA
- Tara Brent, VA - To attend Navigating Change Diversity & Inclusion Training
- Joyce McGarry, MI - To attend the International Food Protection Training
- Kirstin Jensen, ID - To attend 2017 National Health Summit

2017 Public Issue Scholarships of \$600 have been awarded to the following 3 individuals to attend the 2017 PILD conference:

- Gail Silkwood, ID
- Shari Spoelman, MI
- Amanda Osborne, OH

We look forward to learning more from our honorees upon completion of their professional development experiences. Contact any member of the SGR Committee to learn more about upcoming scholarship and grant opportunities.

Patricia Dawson can be reached by email at patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu.



It's not too late to register for the 2017 JCEP PILD Conference in Crystal City, VA, April 2-5. Regular registration is \$445 - register today at jcep.org!

Chapter of Merit and Achievement in Chapter Membership Recognition Awards Explained

Lynette Black, National Membership Recruitment & Retention Committee and Gamma Chapter/OR Member

Hello from the National ESP Membership, Recruitment and Retention Committee. Now that chapters have submitted their annual reports, let's talk a bit about the Epsilon Sigma Phi's Chapter of Merit and Achievement in Chapter Membership Recognition Programs.

National ESP leadership understands the value of strong, active chapters that meet the needs of their membership while in harmony with the goals and objectives of National ESP. These chapters are the lifeblood of the National ESP organization and deserve recognition. National leadership also understands that not all chapters are created equally when it comes to resources or population.

The Chapter of Merit Program is designed to recognize chapters for their efforts without regard to the number of members or the resources available. This program categorizes chapter recognition into Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze groups. The groups are determined through evaluation of areas identified as important in the development and maintenance of a strong chapter. These areas are identified in the ESP Handbook on pages 117-119 which can be found on the National ESP website: esnational.org. All participating chapters are recognized and honored with a certificate at the National ESP Annual Conference which will be held in Wilmington, NC, for 2017!

In addition to the Chapter of Merit recognition, a top chapter in each region is recognized through the Achievement in Chapter Membership process. Chapters do a self-assessment of their membership trends and recruitment and retention efforts. The winning chapters receive a \$50.00 gift certificate for ESP promotional items. At the 2016 Annual Conference in Cape May, NJ, the Oregon Gamma Chapter received this top award for the Western Region and immediately purchased key-shaped flash drives to honor the outgoing chapter leadership team and recognize the incoming team.

Your chapter can apply for both of these recognitions through the National ESP website. The process is quick and easy. Simply visit the National ESP website, click on the Chapter of Merit and/or the Chapter Achievement in Membership tabs located on the right side of the page, and answer the questions.

Your national leadership is excited to be able to celebrate your chapter's achievements with you; we just need the application process completed! The application deadline is May 1, 2017. We are looking forward to receiving your Chapter of Merit and Chapter Achievement in Membership application.

Lynette Ranney Black can be reached by email at lynette.black@oregonstate.edu.

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ESP members. The proposals should provide a model for professional development events and/or materials that can be replicated by other ESP chapters. The grants are not to exceed \$1,000 each. ESP may award up to four grants annually.

Justin Morrill Scholarship – Four \$500 scholarship funds are awarded to Extension professionals working at 1890 or 1994 Land-grant institutions to attend the ESP national conference. Applicants do not need to be ESP members, but recipients are expected to join ESP prior to the national

conference. Deadline: March 1 (and additional May 1 deadline if funds are available).

Scholarship and Grant information is found on the ESP website at <http://esnational.org> under "Membership Benefits" on the side page menu. The application forms and letters of support forms are on the ESP website under the "Forms" tab. Feel free to contact the ESP National Office or SGR Committee Chair or any SGR Committee member if you have questions.

Patricia Dawson can be reached by email at patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu.

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motivating attendees to develop a stronger commitment to showing impact and sharing the good work done within communities across the state.

If you have plans for an innovative project and are looking for funding to support your idea, be sure to apply for the ESP Professional Development grant. This is just another way a chapter can capitalize on one of the many great benefits that Epsilon Sigma Phi offers to its membership.

Ken Jones can be reached by email at krjone3@email.uky.edu.

The County Agent's Rig

Patricia Dawson, National Past President and Chair of Scholarships, Grants & Recognition Committee

So sports' parents have soccer balls, baseball bats, uniforms and more in their car. New parents have an assortment of baby toys, Cheerios, books and a sock or two in their back seat. But what about the county agent's vehicle? For grins, while stuck in traffic I decided to take inventory of the somewhat "odd" items I carry in my car for work purposes. My list of county agent "must have" items includes:

- 2 wooden door stops
- 1 portable handcart & cords to tie the load
- 1 portable easel
- 1 large tool box complete with hammers, nails & steel measuring tape
- Zip ties, strapping tape, duct tape – helpful when I can't nail it down
- A bag of clothes pins and S-hooks to hold back curtains/hold signs in convention centers
- Black Markers, green & white paper & sheet protectors for signs
- Old telephone book - one never knows who one will need to call for help
- A string of 4-H Clover pennants
- 1 pack of flat boxes for hauling back unplanned goodies
- 1 pair of ratty flat shoes and junker coat for unplanned field work
- And of course....an extension cord with one of those orange adapters

I am sure there is more but I would have to look under the seat! Do you have items in your vehicle that you consider "must haves" which are unique to the profession? Send my way and I will share in the next issue of *ESP Connection* newsletter.

Patricia Dawson can be reached by email at patricia.dawson@oregonstate.edu.



(President's Message Continued from page 1)

a wonderful conference! This was the largest JCEP Leadership Conference to date at 309 registrants. New additions this year were a poster session and a Virtual Town Hall Meeting. Both were very popular. Start making plans to submit your proposal for next year where we will again meet in Orlando at the DoubleTree Hotel outside the gates to Universal Studios.

Speaking of proposals! Have you submitted your proposal for our annual National ESP Conference in Wilmington, NC, on October 8-12? The National Board extended the

deadline for proposals to Friday, April 7th, so you'll have plenty of time to prepare and submit!

As president of ESP, I am also a member of JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals.) I participated in their Winter Board meeting prior to the JCEP Leadership Conference and am very excited about their dedication to Extension. JCEP includes representation from each of our Extension professional associations, NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture), APLU (Association of Public and Land-grant Universities) and ECOP (Extension Committee on Organization and Policy.) They are

all working together to move our Extension system forward.

Innovation is a key to accomplishing this. Innovation, as defined in the ECOP Task Force Innovation Report, September 2016, is:

the process of improving, adapting, developing, creating a product system, service or process, large or small, to deliver better results, create value for people or move an organization forward.

How are you being more innovative in your Extension work?

Kathy Tweeten can be reached by email at kathleen.tweeten@ndsu.edu.

ESP Facebook Friends

Jocelyn Koller, Marketing Committee Member and Tau Chapter/MD Member

According to a 2013 study, smartphone users check Facebook approximately 14 times per day.¹ Does your ESP state chapter have a Facebook page? If not, this is possibly 14 missed opportunities each day to connect with your ESP chapter members.

Why should your state ESP chapter have a Facebook page?

With greater connectedness via social media, there is greater opportunity for communication for organizations. Here are some of the benefits that you may be missing, if your ESP state chapter does not have a Facebook page:

1. Connections

Having a Facebook account allows you to include a short description of your chapter, link to the chapter website, and phone number. Additionally, your ESP chapter could connect to other state chapters or national ESP by sharing their pages or posts.

2. Events

Does your chapter have an upcoming event or meeting? You can use Facebook to not only advertise this meeting, but to also record RSVPs. The Event Tool makes it easy to set-up and advertise an event. Plus, you can share photos from the event on your ESP Chapter or Event page.

3. Messages

Through Facebook messenger, you can send messages to your chapter members. Similar to email, the messages can be sent to one person or many people.

4. Groups

Does your chapter have committees or subcommittees? If so, the committee could create a Facebook group to communicate and set up meeting dates/times.

5. Advertising

Once you have a Facebook page, you can invite your friends to “Like” and “Follow” the page. Also, your chapter can increase its Facebook page visibility by promoting the page for usually a nominal fee.

Is your ESP state chapter ready to join Facebook?

If your chapter does not have a Facebook page, but would like assistance in creating an account, please email Jocelyn Koller or Mollie Toppe. Jocelyn and Mollie are members of the ESP Marketing Committee and would be happy to help your chapter start a new Facebook page. Jocelyn’s email address is: jkoller@umd.edu, and Mollie’s email address is: mollie.toppe@mail.wvu.edu.

¹ <http://www.nbcnews.com/technology/smartphone-users-check-facebook-14-times-day-study-says-1C9125315> Image from: <http://www.freeiconspng.com/png-images/facebook-logo-png>



ESP .5 NC17
Nothing Could Be Finer!

October 8-12, 2017, Wilmington, NC
Watch for registration to open June 2017!

Important Dates for Your Calendar!

APRIL

- April 1, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Nominations for National Committees
- April 1, Deadline for applications for Regional Vice Presidents (Northeast Region and Western Region) and 2nd National Vice President—from Western Region.
- April 2-5, 2017, PILD Conference, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA
- April 24-27, 2017 Mid Year Board Meeting—Wilmington, NC
- April 25, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National Office

MAY

- April / May Issue of *ESP Connection* distributed
- May 1, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Chapter of Merit and Achievement in Chapter Membership
- May 1, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Redinger Administrator/Leader Scholarship Applications and Professional Development Grant Applications
- May 15, Deadline for Chapters to Submit Ballots for National Recognition and Voting for Officer Candidates