

espconnection

Number CVII

The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

January-February 2011

Another Day at the Office

Deborah Thomason, National ESP President



“Time flies when you are having fun.” This old saying has taken on even more significance as I reach the mid point of my year as ESP

President. Let’s just look at yesterday as an example... I began with a conference call with Executive Director and he said we were progressing with membership renewals and dues

as the February 1 deadline approached – but reminded me that we accept dues all year! Bob also noted that activity picked up as we prepared for the JCEP Leadership Conference in Texas, PILD in Washington and of course, on-line submission of Recognition nominations which are due March 1 – just to name a few activities that are keeping the National Office busy.

Seems like it was only “yesterday” that we were in

Jackson Hole and yet applications for concurrent session proposals are already coming in for Syracuse! We need to begin booking those flights to Syracuse soon to get a good rate! Also, nominations for next year’s National Committees are being submitted.

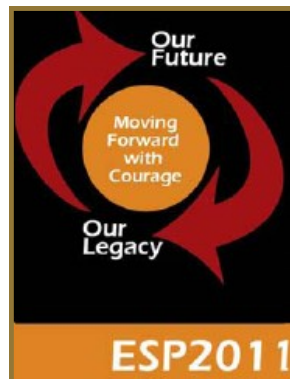
In the afternoon, the JCEP Board met via conference call with Sandy Corridon, Justen Smith and myself representing ESP on the call – we are

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2011 National Conference RFP Reminder

Justen Smith, National President-Elect and Professional Development Chair

This is a reminder to submit a RFP for the 2011 Annual Conference to be held in Syracuse, New York, October 9-13, 2011. All of you have great programs. Please submit proposals for either a concurrent session or poster. The deadline for submitting is March 8, 2011. We have received a few proposals but need many more. Please [click here](#) to submit your RFP or visit the ESP website at www.espnational.org and click on the Professional Development link to see all the great opportunities. Opportunities include professional internships, webinars, and links to Professional Development websites.



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Visit Sites Honoring Smith-Lever Act Sponsors

Judy Carlson, History Committee Chair

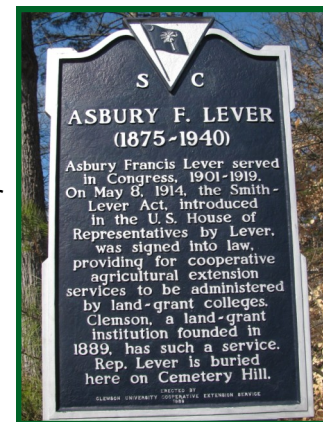


Judy Carlson, History Committee Chair

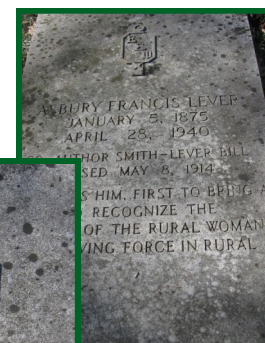
Consider visiting some of Extension’s historic sites as we approach the centennial observances of the signing of the founding legislation for the Cooperative Extension Service. The Smith-Lever Act, signed on May 8, 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson, made Extension available nation-wide. Two landmarks for the trek could be historic plaques in Georgia and South Carolina recognizing the bill sponsors Michael Hoke Smith and Asbury Francis Lever.

Asbury Francis Lever

Smith combined efforts with Asbury Francis Lever in the U. S. Congress to sponsor the bill. Congressman Lever was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives prior to his election to Congress representing South Carolina. The historic marker, honoring Lever, is located on the Campus of Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina near the entrance to the cemetery on Cemetery Hill.

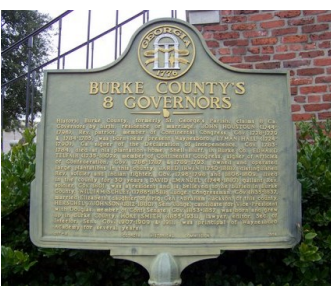


There is an Epsilon Sigma Phi ensign engraved on his grave marker. ESP National President Deborah Thomas reports that Clemson collegiate 4-H’ers cleaned-up the gravesite. Biographical information about Lever is available on the Clemson University Website.



As a guide-book for Extension treks “off-the-beaten path” studying Extension’s roots, seek out a copy of Wayne D. Rasmussen’s book, **TAKING THE UNIVERSITY TO THE PEOPLE - SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**. This 1989 book is available for sale with used book dealers on the Internet. Many Extension professionals have copies in their personal collections. Appendix D is the actual text of the original Smith-Lever Act. Preceding it in Appendix A is a listing of Distinguished Service Ruby Award Winners from 1927 – 1988.

Article provided by ESP National History Committee: Judy Carlson (IA) carljudycarlson@gmail.com, Gary Moran(ND), Susan Hansen(NE), Duane Johnson(WA) and Jan Scholl(PA).



Michael Hoke Smith

To view a plaque honoring Michael Hoke Smith go to the Courthouse at Burke County, Waynesboro, Georgia in the greater metro-area of Augusta. The historic

plaque outside of the 1857 courthouse recognizes Smith and nine other former Georgia governors who have Burke County connections.

After being governor, Smith was appointed and later elected to United States Senate in 1911. He piloted the Extension creation legislation in the Senate. The Hoke Smith Building and Annex on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens, house some of the offices of the Cooperative Extension Service. Prior to entering politics Smith was owner of a prominent newspaper in Atlanta. There is a brief bio of Smith in the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame Website for 1985.



Recognition Applications and Scholarship Applications Due Soon!

Bob Ohlensehlen, Executive Director

March 1st is your last chance to submit recognition applications and scholarships. The recognition applications for Distinguished Service Ruby, National Friend of Extension, Regional Distinguished Service, Regional Administrative Leadership, Regional Continued Excellence, Regional Mid-Career Service, Regional Early Career Service, Regional International Service, Regional Visionary Leadership, Regional Multicultural Diversity Individual, Regional Multicultural Diversity Team, and Distinguished Team are due March 1st. The applications must be entered on the online web forms found at [Recognition-Applications-Reports Tab](#). State

recognition chairs must remember to submit a National Recognition Nomination Submission Form to identify those applications that are being forwarded by the chapter for consideration for national or regional recognition.

Chapters will be notified of the applicants being considered for regional recognition by April 1st. The chapters will have until May 15th to submit their ballots for the recognition applicants in their region as well as for the Distinguished Service Ruby applicants and the National Friend of Extension applicants. Now is the time for chapters to begin planning on the procedure that you will use to cast your

ballot for the recognition applicants. Chapters will each cast one ballot; however, the ballots will be weighted based on the membership numbers as of February 1, 2011.

The Richard R. Angus Professional Development Scholarship and the Administrator/Leader Scholarship applications are also due on March 1st. These applications and additional information are also found at the [Recognition-Applications-Reports Tab](#). Selection of the recipients of these scholarships will be announced by May 1st.

(RFP Continued from page 1)

2. Authors will only be able to be listed as a lead author on one RFP proposal (concurrent or poster, not both). This will enable more authors the opportunity be accepted for either a concurrent or poster session.

Stipends for Concurrent Session and Poster Presenters:

- Concurrent Session presentations are eligible for a \$200 stipend.
- \$100 Poster Presentation stipends are offered for up to ten posters based on a conference site selection process.
- Presenters can claim only one stipend (concurrent session, poster, delegate, committee member or life member).

Remember...Only Concurrent Session and Poster presenters who attend the full conference are eligible for the stipends.

Justen Smith can be reached by email at justen.smith@usu.edu.

(Day Continued from page 1)

meeting as a JCEP Board during the JCEP Leadership Conference in San Antonio (meeting at the same time is helping to reduce travel expenses). When the JCEP call concluded, as chair of the JCEP Travel Team, I had a brief meeting with the other association presidents as we planned our presentation at the upcoming NACDEP meeting in March. Collaborating with the other Extension organizations through JCEP provides ESP with a great opportunity to expand our Professional Development reach to the Extension system.

My drive home included a stop at the Clemson University cemetery to visit the grave site of Frank Lever, co-author of the Smith-Lever Act. The ESP History Committee under the direction of Judy Carlson is working hard on preserving our rich history – and I offered to take a few photos of the Lever burial site. What pride I felt when I saw the ESP symbol carved into his marker.... ESP continues to be as vital in 2011 as it was in the last century! Just “another day at the office,” but what a special way to spend a day...

Deborah Thomason can be reached by email at dthmsn@clemson.edu.



Why I Donate to the Epsilon Sigma Phi Endowment Fund

Jim Lindquist, Past National ESP President

How do you respond when you receive a solicitation to donate to the Epsilon Sigma Phi Endowment Fund? You have to make a decision as to whether or not you will respond, and I can't tell you what you should do. I can tell you why I respond favorably to those solicitations and continue to donate to the ESP Endowment Fund.

Am I a better Extension professional because of the professional development experiences I have had attending Epsilon Sigma Phi national meetings? Yes.

Do I have a greater awareness of our federal partner and national legislative process and greater capacity to work with public issues because of the JCEP PILD conference? Yes.

Have I been able to develop my leadership skills because of my involvement in Epsilon Sigma Phi national committees and other positions of leadership within Epsilon Sigma Phi? Yes.

Have I networked with colleagues representing Extension systems across the country who have benefited me and my programs by getting to know them and their work? Yes.

Have I had a richer and more fulfilling professional career because of my involvement in Epsilon Sigma Phi? Yes

Do I want other Extension professionals to benefit from those same positive professional experiences Epsilon Sigma Phi has provided me? You bet I do!

These are just some of the reasons why I donate to the Epsilon Sigma Phi Endowment Fund.

You can contact Jim Lindquist by email at jlindqui@ksu.edu.

The Alpha Kappa Chapter Provides Extra Opportunities for Its Members

Laura W. Wilson, Southern Region Vice President

The Alpha Kappa Chapter of Kentucky is dedicated to expanding interest in Epsilon Sigma Phi and increasing its membership. To create some competitiveness among the seven Extension districts, a catered meal valued at \$600 was promised to the district having the largest percentage of potential members. Extension professionals having three or more years of experience are eligible to join the Kentucky chapter.

In an effort to provide service to its membership, the Alpha Kappa Chapter is offering an Extension Leadership Development In-Service Training session the day prior to the chapter's annual meeting. This is the second year this strategy has been used to encourage attendance at the annual meeting.

The in-service will feature Elizabeth Crook, President of Orchard Advisors, who works with organizations and individuals who are changing the world by tying their values to action. Ms. Crook is knowledgeable of the Extension system, having worked with University of Tennessee Extension in

their strategic planning process. The Epsilon Sigma Phi in-service will give members an opportunity to learn how resistance to change plays out in their own lives, how to use the Emotional/ Rational Connection and to develop practical approaches to being more effective in helping others to change.

The evening program provides members with an opportunity to learn about incorporating local foods into a fine dining restaurant plus how a small community built a nationally recognized community arts program. A three course meal featuring seasonal foods from local farmers will be served at a facility listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Alpha Kappa Chapter Annual Meeting and Awards Program will be held on day two. The Annual Meeting will include a Life Member session, a silent auction, plus networking and poster sessions.

Laura Wilson can be reached by email at lwilson@uky.edu.

The Resource Development and Management Committee Wants Your Input

Jeff Myers, Chair of RDM Committee and NE Region Vice President

In addition to the review and monitoring of ESP's financial status and management plan, the Resource Development and Management Committee is charged with generating new ideas for resource development, including the Development Fund, to support and increase funding for professional development opportunities for the membership.

The committee's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Develop and implement a yearly committee plan of work which includes short and long term resource development and management goals.
- Prepare a balanced budget to present to the National ESP Council meeting.
- Review budget and expenditures annually and provide recommendations to the National Board.
- Explore opportunities for and obtain new financial resources for the Epsilon Sigma Phi organization and the Development Fund.
- Monitor ESP investments regularly and make recommendations to the National Board.
- Develop promotional materials to support giving to the Epsilon Sigma Phi Development Fund.
- Promote Epsilon Sigma Phi Development Fund campaign activities.
- Continue effective communication with the National Board, Chapter leadership and membership.

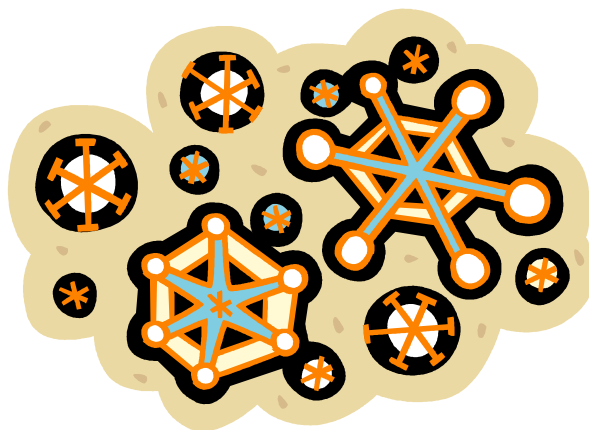
We are open to ideas from the membership and welcome your involvement at all levels. If you have thoughts, please pass those along to the committee membership below. If you would like to become more personally involved let any of the committee members know.

Members of the 2011 Resource Development and Management Committee include:

- Jeff Myers, NE VP, Chair—jdm30@psu.edu
- David Ross, NE—dsross@umd.edu
- Eleanor Wilson, NE—703.931.9017
- Trudy Rice, NC—trice@ksu.edu
- Graham Cochran, NC - cochran.99@osu.edu
- Kelli Bonifer, S—kbonifer@uky.edu
- Duane Johnson, W—duane.johnson@comcast.net
- Marilyn Ming, W—mingm@UNCE.unr.edu
- Rikki Wilson, W—rikkiw@uidaho.edu
- Mark Stillwell, (Ex-Officio) - stillwellm@missouri.edu

Additionally, if you have any questions about the Resource Development and Management Committee, how you individually or as a chapter can better support the Development Fund and the organizational finances, please feel free to contact any one of our committee members. We are here to serve you!

Jeff Myers can be reached by email at jdm30@psu.edu.



Cooperative Extension Systems Cultivate a Formal Relationship With State Associations of Counties

Jeff Christie, National Public Issues Committee Member and Liaison, UGA Cooperative Extension / ACCG

Across the nation over the past 10-15 years, there have been four state Cooperative Extension systems (Georgia, Minnesota, Ohio, and Pennsylvania) which have developed and cultivated a formal relationship with their respective state associations of counties. Although each position varies with regard to the job description and the details of the arrangement, the focus is roughly the same – to improve and strengthen the relationship between Extension and counties, at the statewide level.

In addition, the National Association of Counties (NACo), in partnership with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), has supported the Ralph L. Tabor Extension Fellowship for experienced Extension faculty since the late 1980's.

In late 2009, under the leadership of then-NACo Extension Fellow Keith Niemann from Nebraska, the four state Extension/state associations of counties fellows/liasons came together to explore the commonalities of their jobs, as well as to explore the possibility of forming a national working group. In 2010, with leadership provided by Trudy Rice (the current NACo Extension Fellow) the working group was formally organized as *Aligning Counties and Cooperative Extension, or ACCE*.

ACCE has adopted the following set of guiding principles as it embraces its new mission:

- Sharing resources and ideas among Extension fellows to associations of counties on the national and state level
- Understanding different infrastructure of associations of counties and Cooperative Extension between states
- Promoting the partnerships as having a mutual benefit for Cooperative Extension and the Associations of Counties
- Assist associations of counties and their members by providing research based educational information related to emerging issues

In addition, members of the group are working to promote the fostering of additional state fellow/liason positions around the country. Members of ACCE participated in a conference call of the Western Extension Directors in late January. Trudy Rice will be coordinating a presentation at PILD, along with Gwen Wolford (Ohio) and Jeff Christie (Georgia), and she also is coordinating a presentation at the Urban Extension Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, along with Judy Chambers (Pennsylvania) and Toni Smith (Minnesota). Each of these will be a panel presentation, and each will feature at least one Extension administrator. Additional opportunities are currently being explored with NACo, APLU, Extension Deans and Directors, and others.

For additional information about ACCE, please feel free to contact Trudy Rice at trice@naco.org.



Chapter Contacts Needed for Ad-Hoc History Committee

Susan Hansen, History Committee Member

The Epsilon Sigma Phi ad-hoc History Committee is asking each ESP chapter to appoint a contact person who, each year, will gather and keep information and/or items to help preserve the continuing story of Epsilon Sigma Phi on the chapter as well as the national level.

Here are some ideas to help with this opportunity:

- Consider asking each chapter president to write a one-page synopsis of the highlights of their term as president. Include such things as award winners; issues that were discussed and dealt with by the chapter board; professional development opportunities offered through your chapter; what's happening in Extension in their state – programming, delivery methods, funding issues.
- Save a copy of the chapter president's report that is submitted each year for the JCEP officer meeting.
- If your chapter has hosted a national ESP meeting, ask the involved members to write a paragraph each about their experiences with planning and hosting.
- Each year, keep a copy of such items as awards booklets, award winning applications, professional development fliers, newspaper clipping, printed web pages.
- Find the packrats in your chapter – they will have many of the items you may want.
- Take photographs – staged (award winner presentations) as well as “off the cuff” (members networking, teaching, enjoying fellowship). The photographer does not need to be you as the history contact person; you just need to get some copies of the photographs.
- Check your University archives to see what has been kept and what they currently gather.
- Develop a system for keeping the items: Do you keep the actual item in a file or box? Is the item scanned and kept electronically?
- Share what you have found with your chapter members.
- Share highlights with the national ESP History Committee.

These ideas can get you started. Good luck!

ESP National History Committee: Judy Carlson (IA) carljudy@carlson.com, Gary Moran (ND), Susan Hansen (NE), Duane Johnson (WA) and Jan Scholl (PA).

Wanted...Life Members



The process of appointment of the members for the National Committees is beginning for the 2012 year. It is the policy of the National

Board that we have a life member serving on each of the committees. This provides an opportunity for life members to remain in touch with Extension colleagues and to be an active participant in ESP at the national level.

Life members bring a wealth of experience to the committees on which they serve. The ESP Standing Committees include: Professional Development, Membership Recruitment and Retention, Marketing, Public Issues, Resource Development and Management, Global Relations and Scholarships, Grants and Recognition. If you are a life member and you are interested in serving on one of the National Committees, please sign up online or simply contact the National ESP Office at 1-208-736-4495. This is an excellent opportunity to continue to contribute your expertise to Epsilon Sigma Phi.

For the most up-to-date
information, meeting schedules
and deadlines, Visit the ESP
website at www.espnational.org

National Epsilon Sigma Phi Office
450 Falls Avenue Suite 106
Twin Falls ID 83301



Important Dates Ahead – Mark Your Calendar!

MARCH

- March 1, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Recognition Nominations
- March 1, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Scholarship Applications (Angus & Administrator/Leader)
- March 1, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Friends of Extension Nominations
- March 8, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Concurrent Session Proposals for 2011 National Conference
- March 16-18, Mid-Year National Board Meeting
- March 18, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National Office

APRIL

- March/April Issue of *ESP Connection* distributed
- April 1, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Nominations for National Committees
- April 3-6, PILD Conference, Westin, Arlington, VA

MAY

- May 2, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Chapter of Merit and Achievement in Chapter Membership
- May 16, Deadline for Electronic Ballots for the National/Regional Recognition Program.
- May 20, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National ESP Office
- Registration Available for 2011 ESP Conference

NATIONAL ESP CONFERENCE DATES

- 2011 National ESP Conference, October 9-13, Syracuse, New York
- 2012 National ESP Conference, October 6-9, Mobile, Alabama
- 2013, Galaxy Conference, September 15-20, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania