Racing to Indianapolis...BE THERE...October 6, 2014!

Jeff  Myers, ESP National President

Now is the time to make plans to join your fellow ESP colleagues at the National Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference starting October 6 in Indianapolis. The Alpha Lambda Chapter from Purdue University is our host for the 2014 Conference with the theme, “Extension Professionals: Racing into the Future.” As we just passed the threshold of our 100th Anniversary on May 8, the anniversary signing of the Smith-Lever Act, we truly are racing into the next 100 years.

As always the conference will be a powerful professional development opportunity expanding your Extension career. Our first keynote speaker, Dr. Fred Whitford from Purdue University, will open with Connecting Extension’s Past and Present. April Mason, Provost of Kansas State University, will follow the next day with Reaching the audiences of the future: Who are they and how do we do it? The conference will close with the capstone address, Letting Life Change You, presented by Dr. Will Miller, Purdue University. You will also have the opportunity to participate in four concurrent sessions, juried by our Professional Development Committee, and offered by fellow ESP colleagues from across the country. And the perennial highlight will be the honoring of our newest Ruby winner, Dr. Renee McKeel from Purdue University, who will present the ESP Ruby Lecture.

Another highlight of our national conference has been the ‘Dialog with Administrators.’ This year we will be honored to have Dr. Bruce A. McPherson, Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean from The Ohio State University, moderate A Conversation about the Future of Leadership in the Extension System. This will be a session you won’t want to miss!

Our national conference also means conducting the business-side of ESP. The state of ESP will be conveyed at our National Council meeting. Additionally, we will have presentations to build your chapter leadership and national ESP committees. Our committees will have their one chance to meet face-to-face to bring the past year’s work to a close and plan for 2015.

We will also install our 2015 National Board which will include our newly elected officers. Congratulations to all of our candidates for showing their ESP passion by throwing their hats in the ring. It shows a vibrant organization when so much talent steps forward. Our newly elected National 2nd Vice President is Graham Cochran from Ohio, who has made exceptional contributions to the

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(Racing Continued on page 5)
Dr. Renée McKee is the Assistant Director of Purdue Cooperative Extension and serves as the State 4-H Youth Development Program Leader. She has been an ESP member since being initiated in 1989.

Dr. McKee began her Extension career in 1977 as a 4-H Youth Agent in Carroll County, Indiana. She held a split position with 4-H Youth Development and Consumer and Family Sciences responsibilities as an Extension Educator in Warren County from 1981 to 1997. She additionally served as County Extension Director from 1988-1997. Renée became an Extension Specialist in Leadership and Volunteer Management in the Department of 4-H Youth on Purdue's campus in 1997. In 2003, McKee became the Assistant Director – Cooperative Extension Service, Program Leader – 4-H Youth Development at Purdue University.

Renée has been a member of the Alpha Lambda Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi since her initiation in 1989. As an active member, she has served on numerous committees. As Chair of the Marketing Committee in 1996, she was responsible for the fundraising arm of ESP in Indiana by overseeing the auction at the state annual meeting and for the Extension Picnic for current Extension employees and retirees which takes place at the Indiana State Fair. She also served as Chair of the Awards & Recognition Committee in 2000 promoting the award process at the state and national levels. She was appointed by the Director of Extension to serve as Annalist from 2007-2012 where she was the liaison between State Extension Administration and Alpha Lambda Chapter. Additionally, she has been the recipient of the ESP 25-Year Award in 2003; the State ESP Team Award in 2001, the State ESP Distinguished Service Award in 2000 and the Continued Excellence Award in 2009.

Dr. McKee’s professional accomplishments include serving on the National Board of Directors for the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System (2003 – 2006) and their Personnel Committee (2003 – 2006). This committee was in charge of developing and adopting 4-H project curriculum. As Chair of CCS, she was instrumental in transitioning this board to the National 4-H Council system. She served as a member of the ECOP 4-H Working Group (2012-2013) and was appointed in April, 2014 to the ECOP 4-H National Leadership Committee.

Renée has been a member of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) from 1977-1979 and 1981-Present. She has served on the Leadership Volunteerism Task Force of Programs Committee (1999-2001) and was the Vice-Chair (2001-2002) and Chair (2002-2003). She has taught or been an invited lecturer at Masters level courses in Extension Education at Purdue from 1997 – 2012.

Renée has co-authored four research publications. Since 2000, she has presented or been a co-presenter for ten seminars or poster sessions at NAE4-HA National Conferences. Additionally, she has delivered numerous presentations throughout the state of Indiana about the Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program.

As program leader for 4-H Youth Development, Dr. Renée McKee works with the Director of Extension to ensure federal compliance of the Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program. The program leader is a member of the Purdue CES Administrative team; facilitates programmatic and curricular updates with faculty, campus specialists and field staff; and reviews credentials, interviews candidates and orients new faculty and staff. She directs 135 professional staff throughout the state who oversee approximately 20,000 volunteers and 300,876 Indiana youth who participate in 4-H programs, helping them "learn in a safe and positive environment."

Through her leadership, the Indiana 4-H program has developed and implemented 4-H Policies and Procedures including grievance procedures, risk management, financial management, governing procedures and volunteer management. The 4-H Volunteer Management System requiring 4-H volunteer applications, references and background checks was established and requires volunteers to annually sign Behavioral Expectation forms. Financial Management requires 4-H clubs to submit a yearly financial report to their local Extension Office and file the appropriate Federal Tax forms. Risk management requires 4-H members to annually sign a liability release statement to put in place practices to limit risk to 4-H members/volunteers. Additionally, State 4-H Program Fees were implemented to provide fiscal support to the State 4-H Program. These funds are used to purchase annual accident/medical insurance for 4-H members and volunteers, increase 4-H program development, leadership training, promotional materials and technology support.

Under the direction of Renée McKee, Purdue Extension has received over $13 million in grant funding since 2009. Renée has worked diligently to offer programming in conjunction with the military. An internship program for college students primarily working in child-care settings has been instituted on military bases serving the Army, Air Force and Navy. Additionally, Purdue administers a multi-state grant process working with Adventure Camps for 14-18 year old teens of military families. In 2013, there were 31 camps conducted in eight states.

The National Youth Mentoring Program provides mentoring services to high-risk youth populations in three urban counties by launching new 4-H afterschool clubs and replicating programs from Utah State and Oregon State. The goal is to reduce juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, truancy and other programs of high-risk behaviors.
2014 ESP Recognition Recipients Announced

Chapters have recently completed balloting for regional and national recognition that will be presented at the 2014 National Conference that will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8, 2014 at the annual Recognition Banquet. This year there were 175 applications submitted by and for members using the online system, which represents 8% of the total annual membership. There are 36 members who will receive recognition as regional recipients at the conference. There were 30 of our 39 active chapters that cast votes on behalf of their members and those members in their regions as well as the national recognition nominees. Congratulations to all recipients!

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Chapter/Alphabetical Order</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Distinguished Service Ruby</strong></td>
<td>Renée McKee, Indiana / Alpha Lambda Chapter</td>
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<td><strong>Northeast Region</strong></td>
<td>Roland R. Harrell, Maryland / Upsilon Chapter</td>
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<td>Cassandra Coridon, Maryland / Tau Chapter</td>
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<td>Mid Career Service</td>
<td>Nicholas Polanin, New Jersey / Alpha Xi Chapter</td>
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<td>Brian J. Schilling, New Jersey / Alpha Xi Chapter</td>
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<td>International Service</td>
<td>Charles Frederick Schuster, Maryland / Tau Chapter</td>
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<td>Visionary Leadership</td>
<td>Barbara O’Neill, New Jersey / Alpha Xi Chapter</td>
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<td>Diversity, Multi-Cultural Individual</td>
<td>Michele Bakacs, New Jersey / Alpha Xi Chapter</td>
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<td><strong>Southern Region</strong></td>
<td>Karen L. Hockman, North Carolina / Xi Chapter</td>
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<td>Mary A. Keith, Florida / Alpha Delta Chapter</td>
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<td>Mid Career Service</td>
<td>Sarah G. Fannin, Kentucky / Alpha Kappa Chapter</td>
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<td>Early Career Service</td>
<td>Christopher Sneed, Tennessee / Omega Chapter</td>
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<td>Continued Service</td>
<td>Michael E. Heimer, Texas / Alpha Zeta Chapter</td>
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<td>International Service</td>
<td>Adrian Hunsberger, Florida / Alpha Delta Chapter</td>
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<td>Spring Williams-Byrd, North Carolina / Xi Chapter</td>
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<td>Visionary Leadership</td>
<td>Lucy Bradley, North Carolina / Xi Chapter</td>
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<td>Distinguished Team</td>
<td>“The Third Thursday Thing at Kentucky State University,” Louie Rivers, Jr., Kentucky / Alpha Kappa Chapter</td>
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<td>“Betsy” Mary E. Crisp, Florida / Alpha Delta Chapter</td>
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<td>“Urban Ag: From the Farm to the City,” Sonja Stueart-Davis, Texas / Alpha Zeta Chapter</td>
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<td><strong>North Central Region</strong></td>
<td>Eliza B. Curtin, North Carolina / Xi Chapter</td>
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<td>Distinguished Service</td>
<td>Vera L. Massey, Missouri / Alpha Tau Chapter</td>
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<td>Distinguished Team</td>
<td>“Live Healthy Live Well,” Lisa Barlage, Ohio / Alpha Eta Chapter</td>
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<td>Diversity, Multi-Cultural Individual</td>
<td>Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena, Kansas / Alpha Rho Chapter</td>
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<td>Diversity, Multi-Cultural Team</td>
<td>“Reaching Underserved Hispanic Audiences Through Extension Program Collaboration,” Paul Roback, Wisconsin / Alpha Sigma Chapter</td>
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**Western Region**

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<td>Early Career Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continued Excellence</td>
<td>Jeffrey E. Tranel, Colorado / Zeta Chapter</td>
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<td>Administrative Leadership</td>
<td>JoAnn Powell, Colorado / Zeta Chapter</td>
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<td>Visionary Leadership</td>
<td>Barbara Fahey, Colorado / Zeta Chapter</td>
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<td>Distinguished Team</td>
<td>“OSU Food Preservation,” Nancy Kershaw, Oregon / Gamma Chapter</td>
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<td>Diversity, Multi-Cultural Team</td>
<td>“Colorado 4-H Military Partnerships,” Shauna Woods &amp; Vanessa Tranel, Colorado / Zeta Chapter</td>
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Don’t miss the 2014 ESP National Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana!

Early Bird registration starts in June. Check the website soon!

2014 National Conference Schedule (Draft)

Monday, October 6, 2014

Pre-Conference Tours
8:00 am-5:00 pm Fair Oaks Dairy and Swine (All Day Tour)
Lucas Oil Stadium and Indianapolis Motor Speedway (All Day Tour)
12:00–7:00 pm Registration is Open
5:00–6:00 pm Committee Meetings
5:45–7:00 pm First Timers/Life Members Reception
7:00–9:30 pm Opening Reception in Grand Hall Foyer (Taste of Indiana)
8:30– Explore Downtown Indianapolis on own

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

7:00-noon Registration is Open
7:30–10:00 am Breakfast/Regional Meetings
10:00 am–5:00 pm Exhibit and Poster Viewing
10:15–Noon Opening General Session
Welcome: Jeff Myers
Presentation of Colors: ROTC
Thought for the Day: National ESP
Welcome to Indiana: Dean Jay Ackridge, Purdue
Dr. Jason Henderson, Director of Purdue Extension
Welcome to North Central Region: Susan and Susie or Jason
Intro of Guests: National ESP
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Fred Whitford, Coordinator of Purdue Pesticides Program “Connecting Extension’s Past and Present”
12:00-1:45 pm Box Lunch and Poster Viewing/Judging
12:15-1:45 pm Past National President’s Luncheon
2:30 pm Concurrent Session I
3:30 pm Break
3:45 pm Set-up Silent Auction
3:30–4:15 pm Dialogue with Administrators
4:45 pm Registration is Open
4:45–5:30 pm National Committee Meetings
5:30 pm Silent Auction
5:30–6:30 pm Cash Bar (Hors d’oeuvres from 6:00 – 7:00)
6:30–8:00 pm Live Auction – Illinois Chapter Assisting

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

7:00 am Chapter President’s Breakfast
7:00–9:00 am General Session II
Thought for the Day: National ESP
JCEP Traveling Team Presentation
Keynote Speaker: April Mason, Provost of Kansas State University
“Reaching the audiences of the future: Who are they and how do we do it?”
10–11:30 am Break
10:30–11:00 am Concurrent Session II
11:45 am–1:15 pm Ruby Luncheon & Ruby Lecture
1:30–4:00 pm Life Member Tour/Sessions - Crown Hill Cemetery
1:30–2:30 pm Concurrent Session III
2:30–3:00 pm Break
3:00 pm Concurrent Session IV
5:00 pm Reception with Cash Bar
6:30 pm Recognition/Awards Banquet
8:30–10:00 pm Dessert and Coffee Reception

Thursday, October 9, 2014

7:00 am Breakfast
8:00 am National Council Annual Meeting
10:00 am General Session III
Thought for the Day: National ESP
Capstone Speaker: Dr. Will Miller, Purdue University
“Letting Life Change You”
Memorial Service
Installation of 2015 Officers
11:45 am Adjourn

Get Ready to Rev Your Engines!

Marie Blythe, Ph.D., Professional Development Committee and Alpha Rho/KS Chapter Member

“Extension Professionals: Racing into the Future” will be the theme and the activity, October 6-9, when the Alpha Lambda chapter hosts the 2014 Epsilon Sigma Phi Annual Conference.

Opportunity for professional development, networking, and much to see and do within walking distance of the conference hotel – the historic Crowne Plaza in Downtown Indianapolis—Union Station.

Full day and partial day pre-conference tours will be available Monday, October 6.

Conference keynote and capstone speakers and topics include:

- Dr. Fred Whitford – Connecting Extension’s Past and Present
- Dr. April Mason – Reaching the Audiences of the Future: Who Are They and How Do We Do It?
- Dr. Will Miller – Letting Life Change You

(Rev Continued on page 6)
Jeff Holland, JCEP President Reports on NEDA Meeting

Jeff Holland, JCEP President

The Joint Council of Extension Professional (JCEP) was graciously invited to sit at the table and participate in NEDA (National Extension Directors and Administrators Meeting), held in Sacramento, California. This year, NEDA collaborated time and resources with the National eXtension Conference.

The National Extension Directors and Administrators (NEDA) and Cooperative Extension Section business meeting was the annual, premiere opportunity for Cooperative Extension Directors and administrators to meet together.

JCEP President Jeff Holland (Indiana) and JCEP President–Elect Jeff Myers (Maryland) represented JCEP at NEDA. While there, they participated and listened to discussion that centered around: Innovation in Building Human Capacity for the 21st Century Extension, Extension Programming and Resource Opportunities in the Next 100 years; Improving Health in America; A Framework for Extension Second Century; and Building Connections: Social Media in Extension.

President Holland and President–Elect Myers also attended the ECOP (Extension Committee on Organization and Policy) Meeting immediately following the NEDA Conference and participated in discussions.

JCEP truly appreciates the collaboration between ECOP and NEDA, and looks forward to continuing efforts and communication in the name on Extension programming. Jeff Holland can be reached by email at jholland@purdue.edu.

National Board the past two years as the North Central Regional Vice President. We welcome Peggy Compton, Wisconsin, to the role of North Central Region Vice President and Dan Culbert, Florida, as our Southern Region Vice President.

We have a most unique and awesome venue to experience our National Conference at the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis. As a converted train station, the Crowne Plaza offers train car hotel rooms in addition to a most convenient downtown location.

Lastly, our National Conference provides the opportunity to celebrate our peers being recognized for their outstanding Extension work. We are our best professional selves when we take those strategic opportunities for growth, and while I may be biased, our National ESP Conference is an exceptional occasion to do just that. Come and expand your professional network and reacquaint with colleagues long held dear. Plan to join us in preparing for Extension’s next 100 years!

Jeff Myers can be reached by email at jmyers15@umd.edu.

PILD Scholarship Recipients Wilson/Alpha Rho of KS and Zimmerman/Alpha Tau of MO Report on PILD

Janie Burney, Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee

Jennifer Wilson…My experiences at PILD can best be summed up as inspiring and reaffirming. It was exciting to be a part of PILD during Extension’s 100th anniversary year. Speakers Marshall Stewart and Steve Stark reaffirmed for me that I’m in the right profession with historical perspective on the mission of Cooperative Extension. They, and other speakers, also drove home the point that we must adapt to the changes in society, and build on rather than rest on our strong foundation if Extension work will continue for another 100 years. Focusing on the “why” of our Extension programs was something that I’ve been hearing for sometime in Kansas, and that point was driven home by many of our speakers. PILD offers a great opportunity to put what conference delegates learn about sharing the Extension message through advocacy into practice with Capitol Hill visits. Overall, this was an outstanding opportunity, and I am honored to have received a scholarship to attend.

Jennifer Wilson can be reached by email at jnwilson@ksu.edu.

Lynda Zimmerman…The PILD conference was a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience. It provided insights about current and future trends of the national Cooperative Extension System, with presentations from federal partners, national program leaders and Extension professionals from other states. The sessions included many interesting stories outlining the history of Cooperative Extension and effective strategies for addressing public issues in the community. One of the most memorable presentations was “100 Years and Counting: Telling the Cooperative Extension Story to Stakeholders,” by Marshall Stewart, Associate Director of North Carolina State University. One of his key points was that we should celebrate our past, but not be tethered by it. Moreover, Extension continues to be valued by stakeholders because our programs are relevant to the economy, education and health. Another highlight of the conference was learning about Extension’s advocacy role and how to best achieve this during Capitol Hill visits, as well as at state and local levels. Overall, this was a wonderful professional development opportunity that I highly recommend.

Lynda Zimmerman can be reached by email at Zimmerman@missouri.edu.
Congratulations and Welcome to the New Members of the National ESP Leadership Team

Bob Ohlensehlen, ESP National Executive Director

Recently ESP held elections for a new 2nd Vice President, a North Central Region Vice President and a Southern Region Vice President. For the first time the elections were held on the ESP website rather than at a National Council Meeting. The candidates responded to a question presented to them by the National Board. Their responses were captured on video and those videos along with their applications to become officers were put on the website for the chapters to cast their ballots. There were 26 of the 41 chapters that cast ballots in the elections. Three of the 7 chapters voted in the Northeast Region, 11 of the 13 chapters voted in the Southern Region, 7 of the 11 chapters in the North Central Region voted and 5 of the 9 chapters in the Western Region voted. The votes cast were weighted based on the number of delegates that each chapter will have at the 2014 National Conference.

The successful candidates are: Graham Cochran - Ohio, ESP National 2nd Vice President; Dan Culbert – Florida, Southern Region Vice President; and Peggy Compton – Wisconsin, North Central Region Vice President.

We are fortunate to have such an excellent group that will be joining the ESP National Board when they are installed at the 2014 National ESP conference. In the interim these officer-elect candidates will have the opportunity to become oriented to the function and activities of the National Board until they take office in October.

Barbara Dunn Swanson, McKinney Scholarship Recipient/Xi Chapter, Reports on PILD Conference

As Epsilon Sigma Phi together with Land Grant Universities and Extension professionals across disciplines prepares to celebrate the centennial of Cooperative Extension, the timing was perfect for our recent trip to our nation’s capitol. If you have never participated in the Public Issues Leadership Development conference, you need to set a goal and participate while working for Cooperative Extension.

We listened to some of the brightest scholars discuss the continuing need to engage our land grant colleges and universities to reach out into our communities and be the bridge to bring the research and education to the people. We must engage with people in new and innovative ways. We must increase our use of social media and use technology to reach our citizens with “faster programming.”

We acknowledged that our roots in Extension are very agrarian and that today, we are still pressed to provide up-to-date agricultural information and research to help our local farmers feed a hungry nation. In addition, we are called to help families make better food choices, teach citizenship, leadership and critical thinking to youth so that they can stay in school, graduate and pursue higher education, or enter the job market.

(Ruby Continued from page 2)

Renée leads the 4-H Youth Development program and is always very supportive of the staff. She strives to make the Indiana 4-H Youth Development program the best it can be by setting the example for her colleagues and 4-H members. Renée is well respected in Extension and works tirelessly to promote the entire Extension program.

Renee McKee can be reached by email at rmckee@purdue.edu.

Visit the ESP website at www.espnational.org

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Three general sessions, four concurrent session time slots, a special life member session, poster session, silent auction, Ruby luncheon and lecture and more.

Start packing your bags and plan to join Extension professionals from across the country—racing to the future!!!

Marie Blythe can be reached by email at mblythe@ksu.edu.
Making Connections in Indy

Janie Burney, Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee

Where can First Timers and Life Members mingle for a great time? At the First Timers and Life Members Welcome Reception at the Epsilon Sigma Phi National 2014 Conference in Indianapolis. This year the reception will be held on Monday, October 6 from 5:45pm to 7:00pm at the Crowne Hotel, site of the conference. What could be more convenient?

This year’s conference theme, “Extension Professionals: Racing into the Future,” promises to be a meeting that inspires and energizes. However, the First Timers and Life Members Reception Event is the perfect time to relax and enjoy old friends as well as make new ones. If you are a First Timer, this is a way to learn more about ways ESP can benefit you from the beginning of your career and throughout. What better way to learn than from those who have been there. If you are a Life Member, there is no better way to renew friendships and learn more about what is going on today in ESP and Extension.

ESP is about making “connections.” Connections that will help you throughout your career and into retirement. Make the First Timers and Life Members Welcome Reception one of the top 10 things you do in Indy in 2014. See you there!

Janie Burney can be reached by email at jburney@utk.edu.

Looking Ahead to 2015!

Bob Ohlensehlen, ESP National Executive Director

In early May, President Elect Ann Berry and I visited the site of next year’s annual conference. We met with Host State Chair, Carrie Stark, and Planning Committee members Chris Schnepf and Donna Gillespie to begin planning for next year’s conference. The Theta Chapter in Idaho may be small in numbers but there is no shortage of enthusiasm for hosting the National Conference. You may recall that the Theta Chapter was a major force in hosting the National Conference four years ago when it was in Jackson, Wyoming.

The site is beautiful with the hotel being located on spectacular Lake Coeur d’ Alene. The scenery is phenomenal and hotel will be an excellent site to host our meeting. We will travel across the lake to the hotel’s event center for special events. Early October should provide some beautiful weather to help make the conference special.

The committee has already been hard at work to plan tours, the opening event and all of those things that go with being a gracious host.

Plan now to attend the 2015 ESP National Conference in beautiful Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho! The dates of the conference will be October 4-7, 2015.

(Continued from page 6)

While at PILD we were challenged to meet the needs of citizens for the next 100 years.

- We have to strengthen the food and agricultural industry by developing systems that are efficient, sustainable, and competitive. We must continue to encourage our citizens to buy locally grown, fresh foods and assist youth and adults to increase their consumption of fruit and vegetables.
- Provide education to all youth and families on improving nutrition, diet, and health with ongoing emphasis on childhood obesity.
- Continue youth development programs that assist youth develop skills in science, technology, citizenship, leadership, decision-making and critical thinking.
- Protect our environment and natural resources so that the next generation has a clean, safe and beautiful landscape!

Happy Anniversary Cooperative Extension!

Barbara Dunn Swanson can be reached by email at barbara_swanson@ncsu.edu.
Important Dates for Your Calendar!

JUNE
- May/June Issue of ESP Connection distributed
  - June 1, Announcement of National Recognition and Scholarship Recipients
  - Early Bird Registration Available for ESP National Conference in Indianapolis, IN, October 6-9, 2014

JULY
- July 21, Deadline for ESP Connection articles to the National ESP Office
- July 31, Early Bird Registration ends for ESP National Conference in Indianapolis, IN, October 6-9, 2014

AUGUST
- July/August Issue of ESP Connection distributed
- August 1, Deadline for Electronic Submissions of Voting Delegates for 2014 National Council Meeting
  - August 31, Collect final payments of 2014 ESP dues
- Regular Registration available for ESP National Conference in Indianapolis, IN, October 6-9, 2014