

espconnection

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The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

November/December 2012

Mobile Conference a Great Success!

Mark Stillwell, National ESP President



The National ESP Conference in Mobile was a great success. More than 175 members and guests enjoyed the southern hospitality of the Alpha Pi Chapter lead by Danny Cain, committee chair and members Jim Todd, Tammy Powell and Kathryn Friday; and Jennifer Grogan, Alpha

Beta Chapter from Georgia who helped raise \$6,100 through the auction. From the opening reception at the USS Battleship Alabama Memorial Park to the final general session by Thom Gossom, Jr., this year's conference was an outstanding professional development experience.

A special thanks to Ellen Burton, 2009 President who encouraged me to run for North Central Vice

President and then National 2nd Vice President. I hope I can follow Ellen's calm, patient yet strong leadership style as your new board comes together as a team to lead us into the future.

I will miss the Southern charm and hospitality of our Past President Deborah Thomason. While she tries to come across as a quiet southern bell, those who work with her know of her creativity, passion, and humor. Her encouraging regional vice president to have conference calls with state chapters has led to better communication and training.

I also want to thank outgoing regional vice presidents Kathy Tweeten, Laura Wilson, David Ross and Ken Hart for their hard work and leadership these past two years. The committees they have led and the personal contacts they have

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ESP Membership Dues Season is Here!

Justen Smith, Past National ESP President



The ESP Membership dues season is upon us. Here in Utah, our State Chapter membership chair has

already sent out the notice for dues for 2013. Chapter leadership in all other states should also be sending out notices to all their members to renew their dues. Please remember that National ESP dues are accepted in the national office starting in November for the following year. To be considered for scholarships, grants and the recognition program, dues must be in the National ESP Office February 1 of the current dues year (2013). Members who are considering to apply for recognition or scholarships need to be aware that to be eligible they must have paid their dues for the current and previous year. Along with renewing

dues, chapter leadership should be actively seeking to recruit new members to ESP. We have found that personal contact is the best method in inviting new Extension faculty into ESP. A simple phone call inviting new faculty into ESP goes along way. That is how I was recruited a number of years ago. The Utah Chapter President at the time called me on the phone and invited me to become a member of ESP. He explained the many benefits and opportunities. I was sold and have greatly enjoyed my time in ESP ever since. Bob Ohlensehlen, our Executive Director, has made it easier than ever to add new members. All you need to do is go to the National ESP website at espnational.org On the right hand side of the home page click on the Member information link under upcoming deadlines and simply fill in the application and submit it electronically. A good way to recruit new members is for State Chapters to offer financial incentives for new members to

attend a National ESP Conference. If your State Chapter funds allow, you could provide a scholarship to pay for registration for new members to attend the National Conference. Once new members attend they see how great ESP can be and the great Professional Development opportunities they receive by attending the conference.

Chapter leadership also please be aware of any Extension faculty that are retiring this year that have been ESP members. This is a time to invite them to become Life Members and to be sure to continue to include them in all correspondence, both written and electronically, for your State Chapter ESP events.

The MRR Committee wishes everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and good luck in your ESP recruitment and due's efforts.

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

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made with each state chapter have allowed ESP to continue to be a strong organization in a time of national downsizing and economic turmoil.

While we have 5 new board members, I am confident when I say your National Board is committed to serving **you** – our members. We are continuing to look for ways to meet your professional development needs by partnering through the JCEP board to host a leadership conference in Memphis in February, the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) program in Washington, D.C. in April and the Galaxy IV National Meeting in Pittsburg next September. Watch for details in the newsletters.

We are also trying more ways to communicate with chapter leaders and members using newsletters, email, a great website (thanks Bob) and social media. Please like us on [FaceBook](#), follow our Twitter [@EpSiPh](#) and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#).

Please don't hesitate to contact me (stillwellm@missouri.edu) or your board members directly with a great idea, suggestion, concern, or just to discuss how we can all make our organization stronger this year.

Mark Stillwell can be reached by email at stillwellm@missouri.edu.

Public Issues Leadership Development Conference Set for April 21-24, 2013

Patricia Dawson, Western Region VP & Chair of Public Issues Committee



The Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) will once again hold the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference

April 21-24, 2013 at the Alexandria Westin Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. The 2013 theme is "Public Issues Leadership Development: What We Can Do..." If you haven't attended PILD in the past please consider attending this year's conference which is designed to help participants become informed about and develop the skills required to assist in responding to public issues and legislative matters affecting Extension programs.

PILD Conference highlights will include presentations on "The

Value of Telling the Extension Story"; "What you CAN do.. a Look from Different Perspective"; a USDA Outlook by Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Director of NIFA and a session addressing "Making your Visit to the Hill Count." ESP plans to provide a special session for ESP members in attendance and NIFA will provide participants with an opportunity to meet with National Program Leaders during a breakfast Roundtable Discussion. In addition, a number of breakout sessions will be offered as further professional development opportunities in the areas of Extension advocacy, program replication and emerging needs. The conference highlight for many delegates is the opportunity to make Congressional and Agency visits at the conclusion of the event.

Epsilon Sigma Phi, through the ESP Development Fund, has established PILD scholarships for

eligible members to attend the conference. Up to four, \$600 scholarships are available each year to help defray the cost of attending PILD. Regional representation will be considered; however, discretion will be used depending on the number and quality of applications. A Statement of Support from the Chapter President and Extension Director are required as part of the application. The application is posted on our national ESP website under the Applications/ Reports tab and must be submitted no later than February 1st.

Register for PILD at jcep.org starting in January 2013 with an early bird registration of March 15, 2013. Feel free to visit the jcep.org website for ongoing conference updates.

PILD and McKinney Scholarship Applications Due February 1

The applications for the four Public Issues Leadership Development applications and the McKinney Public Issues Scholarship Applications will be due on February 1st. The evaluations will be done in time for the recipients to register at the early bird rate for PILD. The PILD scholarships are for \$600 and the McKinney Public Issues Scholarship is for \$500.

The McKinney Public Issues Scholarship can be used for any workshop or training that is related to Public Issues. In the past most of the recipients have used the scholarship for attending PILD but it is not limited to PILD.

For those who are not familiar with Mike McKinney, he was an Extension Educator in Indiana and in Florida. Much of his work was related to Public Issues

education. When Mike retired the money that he received as gifts was used to fund the scholarship.

The Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) scholarship is funded by the annual earnings and interest received from the Development Fund.

The applications for both scholarships are available on the ESP website in the Upcoming Deadlines section on the homepage.

Visit the ESP website at
www.espnational.org

A Conference Success Toward our Future

David S. Ross, Past Chair of Resource Development and Management Committee



Our National Conference in Mobile was a tremendous success on many levels, not the least of which was financial. Due to the efforts of many members, significant funds were raised through donations to the Development Fund and our Auction.

The Auction raised a total of \$6,133! The Georgia Alpha Beta Chapter, under the

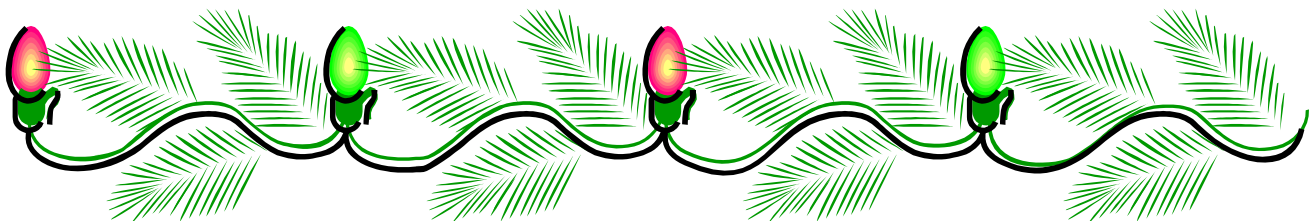
leadership of Jennifer Grogan, managed the auction very well. Thanks to members across the country we had 75 items donated by individuals, chapters and national committees. The monies from the auction are divided equally between the Organizational Account and the Development Fund to support current mini-grants, scholarships, professional development and member recognition for professional accomplishments. We sincerely thank donors and buyers alike for their support. Special gratitude to Alpha Beta Chapter members who gave their time: Jennifer Grogan, Cindy Meadows, Menia Chester, Zona Medley, Forrest Connelly, Mandy Marable, Joanne Cavis, Mary Ellen Blackburn, and Jennifer Davidson. Also, thank you to Alabama Alpha Pi Chapter member Shirley Whitten and Maryland Tau Chapter members Debbie Ross and Elaine Bailey who assisted them.

Additionally, \$5,100 was raised for the Development Fund. These funds become part of the principle and

help move us toward our \$500,000 goal. The principle was at \$345,936.57 on August 31, 2012 and the market value of the principle and earnings was \$443,402.36 on September 30, 2012. During the conference many of the 185 ESP members present made donations; a conference pin modeled after the battleship, USS Alabama, was given for \$100 or greater donations. It takes the efforts of many members to help remind conference attendees of the opportunity to give and of the great works accomplished by the Development Fund. Special thanks to Patricia Powley, Past National President, for leadership and other past presidents; Board members; Resource Development and Management Committee members and others for their efforts in soliciting donations.

We do not want any member to be left out! Donations from members who were not in attendance would be an awesome addition to our conference efforts and would accelerate us forward to our Development Fund goal. A hundred dollars would be great and yet we sincerely appreciate all contributions which will support ESP Extension workers with professional development and recognition. For information on giving, see *Development Fund Giving* on the ESP website at <http://espnational.org>. Mail checks to Epsilon Sigma Phi, Inc., 450 Falls Avenue Suite 106, Twin Falls, ID 83301 or call 208-736-4495 with a credit card number.

David Ross can be reached by email at dsross@umd.edu.



Introducing your National ESP Professional Development Committee

Jeff Myers, ESP National President Elect



Your ESP Professional Development Committee is here to support your professional development needs as both an individual ESP member and as a Chapter. Our purpose is to promote professional excellence, personal development and leadership development among

Extension personnel. If you have any ideas for our committee, please share them with one of our members. We look forward to the challenge!

You can investigate our 2013 Plan of Work by going to the National ESP website. Our primary charge is the solicitation, evaluation and recommendation of concurrent and poster sessions at the National ESP Conference. This year our national conference will be held as part of Galaxy IV. Be aware of the earlier timeframe of abstract submissions (January 10th). Galaxy IV will be an awesome opportunity to present to a far-reaching group of colleagues, as well as a venue to learn from sessions across a diverse spectrum of Extension programming. Remember that before Galaxy becomes a reality we have the JCEP Leadership Conference in February in Memphis, another great professional development opportunity.

If there are additional professional development needs that would be valuable in molding us as Extension personnel we would love to hear from you! Our committee includes Committee Chair and ESP President Elect, Jeff Myers; Denise Frebertshauer, Maryland; Beth Raney, Pennsylvania; Gae Broadwater, Kentucky; Cindy Meadows, Georgia; Travis West, Ohio; Marie Blythe, KS; Deborah Maddy, OR; and Janice Stimpson, Idaho.

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

Registration Now Open for JCEP Leadership Conference

Bob Ohlensehlen, National Executive Director

It is that time of year again to think about the upcoming JCEP Leadership Conference. The conference will be held in Memphis, TN, February 12–14, 2013. This is an excellent opportunity for professional development for leaders and potential leaders in your ESP chapter or for your Extension program in your state.

The program begins at noon on Tuesday, February 12, and runs until noon on February 14th. There will be a general session on Tuesday and Wednesday with time for the organizations to do business.

For more information, check the [JCEP Website](#). Registration is now open at the [JCEP Website](#). Early Bird registration closes on January 18th at 5:00pm. Don't miss out on the discounted price by registering early.

Remember each chapter can apply for a \$300 stipend to assist with costs to attend the conference.



\$\$\$ Scholarship and Grant Opportunities \$\$\$

Graham Cochran, Chairman of Scholarship, Grants, and Recognition (SGR) Committee and Alpha Eta Chapter Member



The Epsilon Sigma Phi mission is about professional development for the Extension system and each of you who is an important part of your state's Extension work. Providing scholarships and grants is one way ESP supports professional development. We have several scholarship opportunities available for members and for chapters. The SGR Committee members would

like to encourage all Epsilon Sigma Phi members to be aware of and consider applying for these scholarships. We on the SGR Committee would be happy to have many quality applications to choose from!

Richard R. Angus Professional Development Scholarship:

Dick Angus devoted 45 years of his life to the Extension Service in Minnesota and Maryland along with state and national leadership in ESP. He is an active life member of ESP. As an outcome of his dedication to Extension professionalism and Epsilon Sigma Phi, the Richard R. Angus Professional Development Scholarship was established. Epsilon Sigma Phi, through the ESP Development Fund, provides \$2,000 annually to fund scholarships not to exceed \$500 per member to encourage, stimulate, and support professional development through participation in courses, seminars, conferences or workshops.

The submission deadline is March 1st.

McKinney Public Issues Scholarship: Mike McKinney's Extension career was devoted to Public Policy Education. After an exemplary 36-year Extension career, Mike's friends and colleagues contributed an endowment to sponsor an annual Public Policy Education ESP scholarship. Epsilon Sigma Phi has established this scholarship in partnership with Mike McKinney, for eligible members to gain or enhance education or skills in any area of public policy/public issues. The scholarship is to provide financial assistance to attend a public policy/public issues professional conference or meeting, or to take formal coursework toward an advanced degree in a public policy/issue area. One scholarship for up to \$500 is awarded annually. **The submission deadline is February 1st.**

ESP Administrator / Leader Scholarship: Epsilon Sigma Phi, through the ESP Development Fund, has established this scholarship to promote continued professional development for eligible members to attend the National ESP Conference (Galaxy IV in 2013). The scholarship is to be used to defray the cost of attending the National ESP Conference. Four scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded annually to outstanding administrators/leaders based on accomplishments. ESP members whose dues are paid for the previous year and the current year (by February 1) and who are first-time attendees at the National ESP Conference are eligible. Eligible recipients include county, regional, state, national and program administrators/leaders. **The submission deadline is March 1.**

ESP Public Issues Leadership Development Conference

Scholarship: Epsilon Sigma Phi, through the ESP Development Fund, has established this scholarship for eligible members to attend the Public Issues Leadership Development National Conference in order to become informed about and develop skills in responding to public issues and legislative matters affecting Extension programs and personal needs. The scholarship is to be used to defray the cost of attending the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference. Four scholarships of \$600 each will be awarded annually. **The submission deadline is February 1st.**

And don't forget the **ESP Professional Development Mini-Grant Program.** Demonstrating our commitment to the professional development of Extension professionals, Epsilon Sigma Phi, through the ESP Development Fund, provides up to four (4) grants not to exceed \$1000 each to stimulate the professional development of Extension employees. Remember that this is a team award that addresses professional development needs of Extension personnel. The submitted proposals should provide a model for professional development events and/or materials that could be replicated by other ESP chapters. **Submission deadline is February 1st.**

All applications and award criteria are available online at the National ESP website.

Graham Cochran can be reached by email at cochran.99@osu.edu.



Life Member Corner



Greetings!

Bob Ohlensehlen, National Executive Director

Greetings to all who have survived (hopefully) a great career in Extension and have moved on to new and exciting adventures. As you are probably aware, we have in our organization over half of our members who have completed their careers and have moved on to retirement. There have been some who have been disappointed that Epsilon Sigma Phi has not done enough for them in the retirement phase of their lives, while many others have viewed what they have received from ESP as having met their expectations.

As many of you know we have created a special committee of Life Members who also serve on the standing committees where they offer the "Life Member" perspective. These individuals are looking out for opportunities to involve and serve life members.

One of the suggestions made by the group was to have an identifiable presence on the website and the newsletter. The "Life Member Corner" was created for that purpose. We welcome your stories or letters to share what you have done or found to be of interest in your "Retirement Career." We are a bit more limited in the newsletter for available space, but the website is virtually

unlimited in our ability to use for this purpose.

We understand that there are still those who do not have internet access or even care to have it, so we will try to use the newsletter for the best of the best things to print. We have the capability to put pictures and stories or letters on the website, so feel free to send them or email them to the ESP National Office at 450 Falls Avenue, Suite 106, Twin Falls, ID 83301 or email to espoffice@esnational.org.

Remember if you do have email and internet access, be sure to let us know so that we can get your name on our email list and will email you a notice that the newsletter is online for you to read or print. Remember, each address we add to the email list saves us nearly \$3.00 per year in printing and postage costs. It all adds up!

We wish all of our Life Members a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Bob Ohlensehlen can be reached by email at espoffice@esnational.org.





Epsilon Sigma Phi National Office

450 Falls Avenue Suite 106

Twin Falls, ID 83301

Seasons Greetings

Important Dates Ahead – Mark Your Calendar!

DECEMBER

- November/December Issue of *ESP Connection* distributed
- Collect and Submit 2013 Membership Dues
- Register for 2013 JCEP Leadership Conference

JANUARY

- January 2, Deadline for *ESP Connection* articles to the National Office
- Register for 2013 JCEP Leadership Conference (Early Bird ends Jan 18th)
- Register for 2013 PILD Conference
- Collect and Submit 2013 Membership Dues
- January 31, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Chapter Reports for JCEP Leadership Conference

FEBRUARY

- January/February Issue of *ESP Connection* distributed
- February 1, Electronic Submission Deadline for PILD and McKinney Scholarship Applications
- February 1, Deadline for Electronic Submission of Mini-Grant Applications to National ESP Office
- February 1, Postmark Deadline for Payment of 2013 ESP Membership dues to determine voting delegates at National Council Meeting and eligibility for Recognition Programs and Scholarships
- February 10-12 JCEP Winter Board Meeting
- February 12-14, JCEP Leadership Conference, Marriott Downtown, Memphis, TN.

