



ESP Communiqué - March 2009

Dear Chapter Leadership,

For me, spring means a time of renewal and new beginnings. As nature renews itself and begins to blossom, I hope you also can find time for some refreshing. Your ESP National Board is aware of the many challenges the Extension System is facing across the nation. We want to applaud you and your commitment to your profession and ESP. Thank you for all you do! You are the vital link for us to the membership. Do not hesitate to let us know ways that we can be of better service to you.

This message is being sent only to chapter leadership but please feel free to share it with your entire ESP membership.

PILD Early Bird Deadline Extended to March 31, 2009! Elizabeth A. Claypoole, Chair, Public Issues

Take advantage of being the "first in the know" for the new NIFA organization! All things new for USDA and CREES will be rolled out at this year's PILD, Public Issues Leadership Development Conference, in Washington, DC, April 26-29, 2009. It is a time to meet with other extension leaders from around the nation. Join the 200 people already registered in this yearly event for extension administration and association leadership. All registration and workshop materials can be found at: <http://jcep.org/pild.htm>. PILD is sponsored by JCEP (Joint Council of Extension Professionals). If you have any questions you can also contact Beth Claypoole at 315-313-8415, Northeast Director and Chairperson of The ESP Public Issues Committee.

"Engage, Enlighten and Enjoy," 2009 ESP National Conference in Fargo, ND, September 13-16, 2009.

The North Dakota Local Arrangements has planned a great professional development opportunity for us in Fargo. It is professional development at a great value. When was the last time you stayed at a conference hotel for \$89/night? Please check out the information on the website (<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ESP2009/>) and begin making your plans to attend.

There is one change in the posted schedule which you need to know. There will **NOT** be a pre-conference in 2009. So make your plans to travel on Saturday for the best airfares and enjoy one of the great tours being planned. Registration should be available on-line around April 15th. Hotel reservations can be made now by contacting the Holiday Inn directly.

Not only is it to be a great conference, but you will be meeting your new ESP National Executive Director. I have enjoyed working with many of you over the last nine years and I look forward to seeing you in Fargo!

JCEP Leadership Workshops, Sandy Corridon, MD, ESP National President-Elect

Special thanks to our ESP Chapters who encouraged the participation of your Chapter Leadership in the 2009 JCEP Leadership Workshops. We had over half of our Chapters represented between the Florida and the California Meetings. The Regional VP's utilized our ESP Website to share information and highlight ESP opportunities. We even viewed many of your Chapter websites and commend you on the links you maintain with your membership.

The ESP Professional Development component of our JCEP Meetings was presented by Dr. Albert Pierce – “Ethics in Today’s Extension World”. Congratulations to the Professional Development Committee who made this possible. Dr. Pierce, Professor of Ethics and National Security at National Defense University, was an ESP National Meeting presenter. His JCEP opening remarks were broadcast via Web Connect and are posted on the JCEP website under the Regional Workshops downlink at www.jcep.org. Extension professionals attending the JCEP Meeting appreciated the additional four hours of workshop!

Please encourage your Chapter leadership to share his materials, his ideas and even his case studies. If you need copies email Sandy (Corridon@umd.edu) for handouts. (These are fill-in-the-blank working copies.) Chapters that attended, please USE this material in your states!!! Everyone who attended agreed that it was both professionally and personally applicable to our daily extension lives. Thank you for participating in a workshop that speaks to our Mission: Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension System and developing the Extension profession and professional.

ESP NEEDS YOU! Deborah J. Thomason, Second Vice-President

As a member of ESP you are entitled to many wonderful benefits and opportunities. One such opportunity is the chance to become more involved in the internal workings of the National Board by committee service. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues from across the country, gain knowledge and add to your professional development resume. Most committees meet and conduct business by teleconference. In addition, if you attend the National meeting you can receive a stipend to help with the cost. Please call (864-656-5721) or e-mail me dthmsn@clemsn.edu if you have questions. We need representation from each region and a retiree on each committee.

ESP National Committee Re-Appointments ! Deborah J. Thomason, Second Vice-President

Don't let April Fools' Day get the best of you! Please send me dthmsn@clemsn.edu your committee reappointment forms before April 1. In addition, let's try the “each one – reach one” philosophy of encouraging/drafting/arm twisting/begging – whatever it takes to recruit one NEW committee member from your state or region. There are so many exciting things happening in our organization and we want to share the excitement with as many members as possible. Hope to hear from you soon.

Achievement in Chapter Membership and Chapter of Merit Applications - Due May 1, Duane P. Johnson, Chair, Member Recruitment & Retention Committee

Each Chapter is encouraged to apply for the “Chapter of Merit” and “Achievement in Chapter Membership” Recognition.

“Chapter of Merit”

The “Chapter of Merit” recognition is designed to recognize chapters who have put forth exemplary effort to further the cause of the Extension System and to provide professional opportunities for their members. The

"Chapter of Merit" recognition is designed to recognize chapters without regard to number of members or the resources available by categorizing all chapters in a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze Group. It is based on a Chapter's activities from March 1, 2008 – February 28, 2009.

"Achievement in Chapter Membership"

The "Achievement in Chapter Membership" recognition is designed to recognize chapters in each region for their efforts to recruit new annual and life members while retaining current annual members between March 1, 2008 and February 28, 2009. Focus of the recognition is to recognize all chapters for their efforts to recruit and retain ESP Membership. The chapters are recognized based on the recognition scorecard.

We encourage all chapters to involve their 2008 and 2009 Chapter Presidents, Board, and Committee Chairs in completing these recognition forms and applications. More detailed information and forms are located online under Chapter Recognition at: <http://esnational.org/Forms/index.htm> Information is also found in National ESP Handbook in Section E "Scholarships, Grants and Recognition Program", Section F "Member Recruitment & Retention" and Section N "Chapter Information." Recognition of chapters will be in Fargo, ND during the 2009 National ESP Conference. Please help this be a banner year with all chapters submitting your application by May 1, to the National ESP Office.

Randy Brooks

As many of you know, Randy Brooks' wife, Carrie, was seriously injured in an automobile accident the first of March. A blog, <http://careaboutcarrie.blogspot.com>, has been set up to give all the up to day information on her progress as well as ways that individuals can offer help to Randy and family. Please feel free to share with others as appropriate.

Reminders:

- **2009 Chapter Reports** are needed in electronic format for posting on the ESP website. If you have not submitted your 2009 chapter report to the National ESP Office, please do so today. You do not want to be missing.
- **2009 Recognition Ballot and CD** will be mailed from the National ESP Office to each Chapter President of record on March 19th. Please be looking for it and make plans to review the applications and vote. The deadline for voting is May 15th.
- **Reimbursement for JCEP Meeting Travel** is due to the National ESP Office by April 1.
- **ESP National Committee Appointments and Re-Appointments Deadline is April 1.** If you have interest in serving on an ESP National Committee or want to continue serving, you must apply. Re-appointments are not automatic. Completed forms are due electronically to Deborah Thomason, (dthmsn@clemsn.edu) National Second Vice President, by close of business on April 1. The form is available on the ESP website at: <http://www.esnational.org/Forms/index.htm>.
- **National ESP Office Closed:** The National ESP Office will be close the week of March 23 – 27, 2009, while I attend the ESP National Board Mid-Year Board in Savannah, GA. This is a very important session. The National Board will be interviewing three candidates for the ESP National Executive Director position. If you have needs for the first part of April, please send them now.

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