



April 2009

Hello Chapter Leadership,

They say that the older you get the faster that time goes. I must be getting pretty old because I find it hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of April. I know that many of you are approaching your busiest time of year. Hopefully, you can take a few minutes to review some information from ESP which is important to you and your chapter. We do appreciate everything that you do to support ESP at the national and local levels. Thanks, Linda

Registration for the 2009 National ESP Conference is On-Line! Come to Fargo to Engage, Enlighten and Enjoy! For all the latest information and to register, you will want to visit the North Dakota website at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ESP2009/> . The 2009 schedule has a new look and there are some major changes in format. The planning committee has tried to listen to some of your concerns and make your professional development dollars go as far as possible. Some key times are:

- National Committee Meetings: Monday, September 14, at 3:30 pm
- National Council Meeting: Wednesday, September 16, at 7:15 am
- Recognition Event: Wednesday, September 16, at 10:30 am
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Early Bird Deadline is July 10, 2009. It is hoped that delaying the deadline may allow some members to use their new travel dollars which become available on July 1 of each year. You can not find a better hotel rate than \$89.95. So, book your room at the Holiday Inn Fargo (701-282-2700) and make your travel plans to be in Fargo and enjoy the mid-west hospitality.

Achievement in Chapter Membership and Chapter of Merit Applications Due May 1

Duane P. Johnson, OR, Chair of 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 the very easy form and application. 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.

Recognition Ballots Postmark by May 15

The Recognition Ballots with a CD containing the nominations were sent to Chapter Presidents of record on March 20th. Ballots are to be returned to the National ESP Office with a postmark of May 15th or earlier. **DO NOT** miss this opportunity to help select outstanding Extension professionals for recognition at the 2009 National Conference in Fargo.

ESP History Book

Ellen Burton, National ESP President, has appointed an ESP History Sub-committee. The committee is composed of Judy Carlson, MN; Gary Moran, ND and Susan Hansen, NB, who will be working with National Past President and Board Liaison to the Sub-committee, Duane Johnson, to bring the ESP organizational history up to date. The committee is interested in information from individual chapters as well as the national organization. If you're Chapter has a written history, please share it with the committee via the ESP National Office at espoffice@esnational.org.

Additionally, the History Committee plans to be in Fargo at the 2009 National Conference to gather information and do interviews. Please encourage your life members to attend and contribute to ESP's history. Or, if you know someone in your chapter who has information to share, please let the ESP National Office know. The history of our organization is rich and has provided us with a legacy for the future.

National Office Closed: April 25 – May 4th!

The National ESP Office will be closed from April 25 – May 4th for the Cooks to have a vacation. If you have specific needs, please send them immediately so they can be handled prior to the 24th. E-Mail will not be read during this time. Thanks.

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