I hope your fall has gone well and you are ready for the holidays and the busy time that comes with the winter season. I am taking this opportunity as I send you the Communiqué for November to remind all of you of some important things that are coming up soon.

I know several chapters have had their annual meetings as we have received Chapter Officer Updates notifying the ESP National Office of the new slate of chapter officers. Most everyone has used the online system, which is found under the Forms tab and then under the Chapter Reports tab on the new website at http://espnational.org. I appreciate that so many of you were brave enough to enter your information online. The system seems to be working well.

The next deadline coming up is the submission of the nominations/applications for regional vice president candidates. These applications are due December 31st. The application requires that the applicant submit the online application which is found on the website at http://espnational.org under the Forms tab and then the Leadership tab. In addition to the application, the applicant will be required to have an endorsement from their Extension Director and their Chapter President. The forms for endorsements are also found on the website at the same place as the application.

Serving as a regional vice president is an excellent opportunity to serve at the national level. The rotation will require that the Northeast Regional Vice President will also serve as the Chair of the Resource Development and Management Committee, the Southern Regional Vice President will also serve as the Chair of the Public Issues Committee, the Western Regional Vice President will also serve as the Chair of the Scholarship, Grants and Recognition Committee, and the North Central Regional Vice President will also serve as the Chair of the Global Relations Committee.

Registration for the JCEP Workshop (formerly Regional Leadership Workshops) will begin presumably in December. We will have a link on the website as soon as registration becomes available. The meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, on February 2–4, 2010. The general professional development sessions will be a professional development opportunity for all of the participating JCEP partners. There will be an opportunity for ESP attendees to meet as regions to conduct business and to provide a leadership development opportunity for chapter officers.
In preparation for the JCEP meeting, chapters officers need to prepare a chapter report that will be shared with your fellow officers and ESP attendees at the JCEP meeting in Nashville. This year, chapters will be requested to complete the report online using the online reporting system at the website at http://espnational.org under the Forms tab and then Chapter Reports tab. For those who find it easier, you can type your information first on your word processor and then cut and paste it into the form. The completed forms will again be posted on the website. I would like to have the reports submitted by mid January, if possible, so that we can format them and get them posted for use at the JCEP meeting.

Another reminder is that scholarship applications are due on February 1st, and that will be here before we know it. Each of the scholarships has the instructions and forms on the website at http://espnational.org under the Forms tab and then the Scholarship tab. Be sure to take note of the requirements for Statements of Support for these scholarships. All of the required documents have to be submitted by the due date. It is the applicant’s responsibility to see that the Statements of Support are submitted by the deadline.

Chapter dues have been slow in coming in. Keep in mind that the number of paid members submitted by February 1 will determine the number of delegates that a chapter may have representing them at the National Council meeting next October. Hopefully, all of those who are responsible for membership in each chapter have developed a plan to solicit existing members for renewals and to find quality new members for our organization. A call or personal contact always is the best way to invite new members. Across the country there are many who, because of the economic situation, are leaving Extension. Be sure to invite these retirees to become life members so that they can continue their ties with their Extension colleagues.

Jeana and I would like to take this opportunity to say that we are enjoying our new position of serving all ESP members. We both feel that we have been blessed to have this opportunity to work for all of you good people. We have enjoyed our first few months and are looking forward to a long and rewarding relationship with all of you. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING.