Greetings ESP Members,

The first of February was a busy time for ESP. The JCEP Leadership Workshop was held in Nashville, Tennessee. This meeting replaced the JCEP Regional Workshops that have been held in two locations for the past two years and were formerly held in each region. Due to the economic climate, the JCEP Board has reduced the number of the meetings to save on travel expenses for the JCEP Board and Board members of the JCEP’s member organizations’ Boards.

The JCEP Board, which is made up of the President, Past-President and President-Elect of each of the six member Extension organizations (ESP, NACAA, NEAFCS, NAE4HA, NACDEP and ANREP), met prior to the Leadership Workshop. This was another cost-cutting move as the JCEP Board normally meets in January prior to the Leadership Workshop. This year the JCEP Chair is ESP’s own Past-President, Ellen Burton. As Chair she also serves on the Public Issues Leadership Development Workshop Planning Committee. Ellen is doing a great job for JCEP and represents ESP well!

ESP was responsible for the Professional Development portion of program. The theme was “A Family-Friendly Workplace Environment.” The program included a keynote address by Geania Dickey who is the Program Coordinator for the Arkansas Governor’s Work-Life Initiative. Ms. Dickey’s presentation and her PowerPoint presentation can be found on the ESP Website homepage. There were over 200 Extension professionals in attendance representing six Extension organizations that are members of JCEP.

RFP for Concurrent Sessions and Poster Session Presentations at the National Meeting in Jackson 2010

If you are planning to attend the 2010 ESP National Conference in Jackson, Wyoming, in October, why not consider sharing your skills and program successes with other conference attendees by giving a presentation in one of our Concurrent Session Presentations or at the Poster Session? There are still opportunities available, and remember, the National Board offers a stipend of $200 for each Concurrent Session selected and $100 for up to 10 Poster Session presentations. The deadline for submission is Friday, February 26th!

To submit an RFP follow the link to “Climbing to New Heights” - RFP and select “RFPs.”

Important Dates to Remember

- **February 26**—Deadline for RFP’s for 2010 National Meeting Concurrent Sessions and Poster Session Submissions
- **February 26**—Deadline to provide initial input to ESP National Board on the Strategic Plan
- **March 1**—Deadline to submit Richard R. Angus Professional Development Scholarship and Administrator / Leader Scholarship Applications
- **March 1**—Deadline to submit Distinguished Service Ruby and Friend of Extension Nominations
- **March 1**—Deadline for Chapter Submission of National Recognition Nomination Form
- **March 1**—Deadline for Early Bird Registration for Public Issues Leadership Workshop
Would You Like to Learn about the Political Process and How to Become More Effective? — Attend PILD!

The Public Issues Leadership Development Workshop is being held in Arlington, VA, April 26-28, 2010. PILD has received high evaluations for several years as a premier program for exploring the workings of the political system in our nation’s capitol. The program this year will once again provide Extension professionals an opportunity to learn about the political system on the national level. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with policy makers and will network with decision makers, including members of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and national Extension program leaders. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture is the new home of Extension Programming on the national level and attendees will learn of plans for the future of Extension.

To register follow the link to PILD 2010 Registration.

Planning For The Next Five Years

The ESP National Board will be spending time at the Mid-Year Board Meeting early in March developing a new Strategic Plan to guide the organization for the next 5 years. There was a good session of discussion with leaders representing 31 of our 42 chapters during the recent JCEP Board meeting to discuss the direction the organization needs to take. The Board would like each of our members to have the opportunity to comment as the new plan is developed. If you would like to participate and provide input into YOUR organization, follow the link to the ESP Homepage and select Help Wanted to view the current plan and to provide input for the new plan.

Membership Drive Enters the Second Phase

The February 1st deadline has come and gone and the annual membership drive has entered the second phase. The number of paid members that were submitted by February 1st will be used to determine the number of voting delegates that a chapter will have during the National Council Meeting, which is the official annual meeting of the organization that is held during the National Conference, October 12-15, 2010. Timing of ESP Chapter meetings or Extension conferences do not always match up with our membership campaign, so we continue to accept memberships until September 1st. Any memberships received after September 1st are credited toward the following year’s membership.

We understand that chapters may install new members between February 1st and the first of October when the new dues campaign begins. We encourage the officer responsible for membership in each chapter to send the names, mailing addresses and email addresses for new members into the National Office as soon as possible so we can begin providing information to these new members. The same goes for those renewing members who may have missed the February 1st deadline.

A special thanks to those who have worked to collect membership dues and update the member information such as postal addresses and email addresses. It is quite a chore to do this and we at the National Office appreciate working with the chapter officers who take on this responsibility. Thanks again to all who have worked to complete this task.

Plan Now to Attend the 2010 National Meeting in Jackson, Wyoming, October 12-15, 2010

Chapters in the states of Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Oregon, Colorado and Washington are working together to provide you with an opportunity to begin “Climbing to New Heights” when you come to Wyoming. The committee has arranged for three excellent keynote speakers, several excellent tours and scenery that is second to none. Follow the development of the program for the Conference and obtain information to aid you in planning your trip to Wyoming at the ESP website. Conference information can be found by using the following link - 2010 National Conference. See you there!

Robert Schmeller
National Executive Director