



Minutes Epsilon Sigma Phi Meeting October 14, 2009 – Laramie, WY

President Cole Ehmke called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., welcomed participants and asked them to introduce themselves.

Attending the meeting were: Phyllis Lewis, Maaret McCauley, Shawna Potter, Cole Ehmke, Gene Gade, Bill Taylor, Crystal Olson, Kim Reaman, Patti Griffith, Tina Russell, Juliet Daniels, Kimberly Chapman, Kristi Hansen, Doug Hixon, Milton Green, Vicki Hayman, Milt Geiger, Randy Anderson, Mary Martin, Dallen Smith, Christine Pasley

Minutes of the September 28, 2008 meeting were approved with two corrections: a typo that identified the date of the national meeting in Jackson as 2011 instead of 2010, and removal of question marks related to ESP award recipients that the secretary was unsure of when he wrote the minutes.

Treasurer's report: ESP has \$2,120.57 in its checking account, \$1,489.57 in savings, \$610.70 in its professional improvement fund for a total of \$4,220.84

Dues were discussed. They are \$50 for initial membership years and \$45 for subsequent years. \$40 of that amount goes to the national organization and \$5 is kept by the local chapter. Dues may be paid any time before February when the formal enrollment is sent to national. Chris will send out information and invoices prior to that date.

President Ehmke led a discussion of the grant received for the mentoring project. The goal is to help with the professional development of Extension professionals. Part of the preparation included collecting information and materials from other state services as to how they accomplish this goal. Interviews of two highly successful retired Extension Educators, Rhonda Shipp and Arlowe Hulett, reflecting on their careers, CES history, etc. and providing advice to current educators was the other part. These hour-long interviews have not yet been edited, but editing should be completed by October 2010 (in time for the next ESP national meeting). Additional interviews are planned.

ESP's goal is to develop the extension profession and extension professionals. Recruiting efforts are focused primarily on newer educators. Currently the Eta chapter has 13 paid members and two lifetime members, Stella McKinstry and Phil Rosenlund. Lifetime membership is \$150. Phil's generous donation of \$800 to the Eta chapter was also acknowledged.

Ehmke said that UW CES administration has addressed the issue of conflict of interest and commitment forms and is working on what is and is not permissible.

Participants in the recent National ESP meeting in Fargo, ND reported that about 150 persons attended, but that numbers were probably down due to budget and travel constraints in many other states and the general economy. However, reports about the meeting content were very positive, including compliments on the many good speakers and sessions and the fact that ESP focuses on the total CES organization, rather than disciplines. Special positive comments were made relative to sessions on eXtension (extension.org), workplace issues, the competency model, marketing and issues related to data collection for evaluation purposes. The concurrent sessions generally contained useful content and the plenary sessions challenged people to think in new ways about Extension and its future. Mary Martin gave special mention to a presentation by Sharon Anderson who made a thought provoking analysis of 4-H and Extension...apparently concluding that both must change or they will not exist in 15 years. The presentation on the FAQ (frequently asked questions) aspect of eXtension was also identified for its importance. A subgroup of Mary Martin, Vicki Hayman, Glen Whipple and Gene Gade was established to determine how eXtension could best be "rolled out" for UW CES educators to encourage their use of it.

The National ESP meeting will be held in Jackson, WY October 12-15, 2010. Other states in the West are assisting in the meeting plans. Wyoming is responsible for the opening reception which will be held at the National Museum of Wildlife Art with a catered meal. Dr. Hank Barlow who heads the UW/National Park Service Research Center in Grand Teton National Park will be the speaker. The Wyoming delegation is expected to "meet and greet" participants at this portion of the program.

Several potential professional development programs were discussed. These include: ESP sponsoring Adobe Connect sessions on topics such as "Dealing with A Hostile Audience," a series of sessions on teaching techniques, possible establishment of discussion groups on books or articles on topics related to our work.

Awards and nominees were discussed. The Friend of Extension Award will be presented to the Wyoming Association of County Commissioners. The mid-career award will be presented to Vicki Hayman, and Milt Green will receive the Distinguished Service Award. Tana Stith will be presented with the Meritorious Support Services award and three persons, Phil Rosenlund, Rhonda Shipp and Stella McKinstry, will be honored with the Retiree Awards.

Elections were held for ESP offices. Mary Martin received a unanimous ballot as chapter president and Randy Anderson was likewise unanimously elected as Vice President. Terms are two years.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.