



# Epsilon Sigma Phi

ALPHA SIGMA CHAPTER, WISCONSIN  
JULY 2012

## Your Key to Professional Excellence

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings ESP Members!

It's an honor to be serving as your ESP President. I have been with UW-Extension since 1998 when I was hired as a "Basin Educator" - a natural resources educator working in a geographic area that was defined by 4 watersheds (two basins). Over the past few years, our program has been reorganized into "Extension's Regional Natural Resources Program." I am still programming in natural resource areas - on a local, regional and state-wide scale - and I especially enjoy working with woodland landowners, and on topics related to stormwater, drinking water, and groundwater.

For my first 5-6 years with Extension, I was totally focused on my local work and did not venture into the alphabet-soup world of things such as WEECDA, JCEP or ESP. But eventually, I wanted to get out of my comfort zone (and geographic area) a bit more, so I joined WEECDA - the Wisconsin Extension Environmental and Community Development Association - and somewhat by accident became a WEECDA representative on JCEP. From that point, things really started rolling along with my involvement in our Extension organizations and associations. I began to learn what the acronyms stand for - WEAFCSS, WACAA, WAE4-HYDP, ESP - and then, the best part, I began to meet the people behind the acronyms. I even served as the Chair of JCEP and the Co-Chair of the JCEP Conference. It was invigorating to work with and get to know colleagues from the other program areas - fine folks and role-models like Mike Wildeck and Karen Joos. And now, by taking a more active role in ESP, I continue to grow those relationships with colleagues from across program areas and around the state AND, I have the added bonus of also working with and getting to know Extension retirees. It is a dimension of ESP that makes it special and exceptional.

While there never seems to be enough time in the day to do all the things we'd like to do, I have chosen to spend some of my time being active and involved in ESP. I am thankful for past presidents Paul Roback and Joan LeFebvre and past and current board members who have developed a well organized and robust organization poised for continued success.

I look forward to serving you and also hope to see many of you at the annual picnic, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Compton  
President, Alpha Sigma Chapter, ESP  
[peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu)

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## ALPHA SIGMA CHAPTER OFFICERS—2012-2013

<b>President:</b>	Peggy Compton
<b>President-elect:</b>	Patrick Nehring
<b>Past President:</b>	Joan LeFebvre
<b>Secretary:</b>	René Mehlberg
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Melanie Miller
<b>County Directors:</b>	Cara Carper, Barb Haynes
<b>Retiree Directors:</b>	Mary Mennes, Kay Buelke Schroeder
<b>State Staff Directors:</b>	Ann Keim, Tom Schmitz

### Committee Chairs:

<b>Awards</b>	Joan Wimme
<b>Benefits Review</b>	Dwayne Rohweder
<b>Grants</b>	Mahlon Peterson
<b>Global Relations</b>	OPEN
<b>Membership</b>	Faye Malek
<b>Nominations</b>	Joan LeFebvre
<b>Resource Development</b>	Peg Reedy
<b>Retirees</b>	Paul Roback

<b>Annalist:</b>	Yvonne Horton
<b>UWEX Liaison:</b>	Janice England
<b>Newsletter:</b>	René Mehlberg
<b>Historian:</b>	Linda Kustka



## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Joan LeFebvre Chair

Your talents are needed on the ESP Board! ESP builds and maintains a strong Extension profession by providing annual scholarships, awards, networking activities and events at the annual JCEP conference, and leadership opportunities. This is an opportunity for you to develop leadership skills and help guide the direction of the organization. We are looking for members to serve on the 2012-2013 ESP Board in the following positions: President Elect, Secretary, and three Board of Director positions.

Each of these positions is for a two-year term, except for President Elect. The President Elect is a one year term, then ascends to President, and then serves as Past-President. If you are interested in serving on the ESP Board or would like more information, please contact any of our committee members: Joan LeFebvre (Chair), Peggy Compton, Patrick Nehring, Dick Pederson, Karen Joos, or Kristi Cutts.



## GLOBAL RELATIONS

Mary Ann Schilling & Peggy Compton

In our modern day world, we have great opportunities to develop international relationships, and UW Cooperative Extension workers are in a wonderful position to do that. The ESP Global Relations Committee is renewing enthusiasm for the committee's purpose of working cooperatively with the UW-Extension International Committee in establishing international experiences for members. The State ESP Global Relations Committee will connect to the ESP National Global Relations committee for international program opportunities. One way the Global Relations Committee supports the International Committee is through awarding scholarships to ESP members applying for international experiences. Under the leadership of Joan LeFebvre the 2012 ESP Global Relations Committee was reinvigorated. These members include Jenny Wehmeier, Karen Vermillion, Marty Havlovic, Jason Kauffeld, Gary Kirking, Mary Ann Schilling, and Mark Kopecky.



Catherine Neiswender, center, recipient of an ESP International Service award.

More members are needed to bring your interest, enthusiasm and ideas for helping to shape and carry-out the important work of this committee. Please contact Peggy Compton ([peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu) or 608-342-1633) if you are interested in getting involved.

## 2012 PUBLIC ISSUES LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (PILD) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: RELEVANT NOW & BEYOND

By René Mehlberg, ESP PILD delegate, Winnebago County

It was an honor to represent the Alpha Sigma Chapter at PILD this April. Also representing ESP was Patrick Nehring and Sue Buck. PILD gathers Extension professionals and state volunteers from throughout the country to learn about Cooperative Extension at the federal level, participate in professional development sessions, and visit state senators and representatives on Capitol Hill to advocate for continued support for federal Extension funding.

Wisconsin is fortunate to send not only Extension professionals (14 attended), but 10 WACEC members and 2 youth delegates. The WACEC members and youth delegates often take the lead for Capitol Hill visits and do an outstanding job telling the value of Extension programming including the state and local return on investment given to the federal funding.



Thank-you to ESP for supporting my experience, and I encourage other ESP members to attend if offered the opportunity.



**AWARDS COMMITTEE**  
Joan Wimme, Chair

Greetings from your ESP Awards Committee! The 2012-13 ESP Awards Committee thus far includes Monica Lobenstein, Linda Bruce, Matt Hanson, René

Mehlberg (Board Liaison) and Joan Wimme (Chair). Many thanks to Linda Olson for her time and efforts on the Committee the past three years! We are looking for 2 more members. It's fairly painless and a great way to contribute your talents and skills to the betterment of ESP and your colleagues. Contact Joan Wimme at [joan.wimme@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:joan.wimme@ces.uwex.edu) if you are interested in joining our merry band! (Tights and bows not required)

The Awards Committee conducts its work via email and three WisLines, which were scheduled in January, February and March. Committee activities include:

1. Reviewing and updating committee timelines and tasks
2. Reviewing applications and selecting award recipients
3. Completing tasks in preparation of the Awards Luncheon at the JCEP Conference
4. Forwarding on award applications to National ESP

**Congratulations to the Award Recipients honored at the JCEP All Association Awards Luncheon on Thursday, April 12, 2012.**

**Early Career Award**

- Mary Pardee (top left)
- Patti Herman (top right)

**Distinguished Service Award**

- Ted Bay (middle right)

**Retiree Award**

- Dwayne Rohweder

**International Service Awards**

- Robert Kaiser
- Catherine Neiswender

**Meritorious Support Service Award**

- Karen Smiley (middle left)

**Chapter Team Award**

Rent Smart – Tenant Education Program  
Kristi Cutts, Karen Joos, Chris Kniep (bottom) and Shelley Tidemann (not pictured)



The committee encourages every ESP chapter member to either self-nominate or nominate someone else for chapter awards in 2013. The committee discussed various options to increase the number of applications for ESP awards in coming years, as well as reviewing the award application process itself. Nomination forms are located on the Alpha Sigma Chapter ESP web site under Committees; Awards: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/admin/esp/>. For additional information on ESP state, regional and recognition awards, check the National ESP website: <http://espnational.org/>.



## ESP's Guess the Gadget Night

*Guess the Gadget Night* was held at the County Leadership Conference Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> during the Dean's Welcome Reception. This exciting, fun-filled night with a game show flavor featured a panel of Extension "celebrities" who suggested the use of obscure historical gadgets and tried to stump the audience.

### Our Celebrities



**Daisy Buchanan**  
Socialite & Flapper  
Extraordinaire  
(Annie Jones)



**Sven Kidderson**  
Norwegian Dairy  
Farmer  
(Dean Volenberg)



**Lucrezia Bori**  
Opera Singer  
(Rosamaria  
Martinez)



**Frank Starr**  
The OTHER Starr  
brother  
(Frank Ginther)



**The Curator**  
(Michael Douglass,  
Director of Villa  
Louis Historic Site in  
Prairie du Chien)

A combination of the game show "To Tell the Truth" and the board game "Balderdash," *Guess the Gadget Night* was an opportunity to explore gadget stories and how gadgets are embedded in our cultural traditions. In exploring the stories of our past, we strengthen the future of Cooperative Extension.



**Our Hosts**  
Vanna Carper and  
Rick Sajak



"Sven" Examines a Gadget





Don't let Vance give you any "bull!"

**Special thanks to  
ESP and the  
Wisconsin  
Humanities  
Council for  
funding "Guess  
the Gadget" Night.**



The Curator helps identify unknown gadgets after the show.



## CELEBRATING THE CES CENTENNIAL

Linda Kustka, ESP Historian

### CES Story Sharing During the Centennial

Who was an influential Extension person in your life? What change did you see in an individual, family, group, or community from Extension involvement? What's changed or stayed the same in Extension work over the years? Questions like this cause us to think about past experiences. ESP members have the best stories to share.

Twenty five retirees, staff, and program participants reflected on past experiences, wrote and shared stories during the ESP sponsored "Capturing Your Extension Story-Both Personal and Public" seminar on April 10. Jerry Apps' teaching inspired participants to record their memories and capture more stories at the Lambeau Centennial reception at WACAC and Farm Tech Days.

Read some stories on the Centennial website at: <http://100.ces.uwex.edu/category/your-stories/> There is space to add your stories at: <http://100.ces.uwex.edu/share-your-story/>

This effort is being funded by Wisconsin Humanities Council, Wisconsin Epsilon Sigma Phi, National Epsilon Sigma Phi, and UWEX-Cooperative Extension.

### Centennial Happenings at Farm Tech Days and State Fair

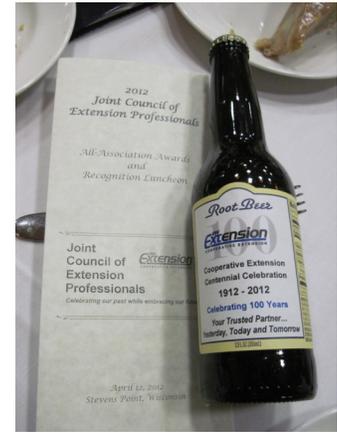
The July 17-19 Farm Tech Days, New London, will feature an appearance from EL Luther (first CES agent hired in 1912), historical women's clothing, Centennial displays, and the opportunity to record stories. EL Luther will appear on Wednesday, July 18 in the Family Living tent. Check the website for more details at [www.outagamiefarmtech.com](http://www.outagamiefarmtech.com)

Wednesday, August 8 is a big day at the Wisconsin State Fair when CES folks join campus based colleagues for UW-Madison Day. Central Park on the fairgrounds will host MANY fun, educational activities. Extension colleagues will staff interactive exhibits with fun activities for all ages. Bucky Badger, the UW Marching Band, and CES Centennial Custard (donated by the famous Babcock Dairy Store) will satisfy many tastes. Look around the fairgrounds for the wide UWEX-CES presence in youth exhibits, Master Gardeners (DNR Park), and agricultural areas.

## GRANTS COMMITTEE

Mahlon Peterson, Chair

The next ESP Grant deadline is August 1, 2012. The grant application is available at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/admin/esp/committees/grants.cfm>.



Centennial Celebration Root Beer for a Special Toast at Wisconsin JCEP.

## Highlights from Grant Recipients Experiences

### Katy Maas, Waukesha County Nutrition Educator

The ESP Grant I received was used for tuition for a 3-credit online course, *The Wellness Profession*. I learned valuable information to enhance my effectiveness as a Nutrition Educator. Some of the lessons included the studying of the definition of wellness and its history, common themes of wellness, and the 7-dimensional model of wellness including the social, physical, emotional, career, intellectual, environmental, and spiritual dimensions.

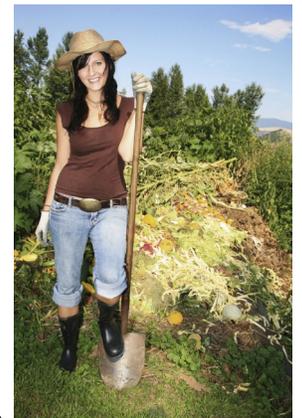


Wellness is more than just a program, it is a philosophy. I wrote a personal wellness philosophy statement and created a personal plan for health and wellbeing. I learned the importance of being a healthy role model and the positive impact that has on others. I studied ethics in the Wellness Profession. I learned about the various professional certifications available and the requirements to be met to be awarded such certifications. Various wellness topics were researched and research articles were summarized.

I now have a deeper understanding of all the aspects involved in overall wellbeing. This understanding will enable me to more adequately plan lessons for various audiences taking into account all the aspects of wellbeing beyond just proper nutrition and physical activity. With this new knowledge, I feel I am better equipped to plan, implement and evaluate nutrition programs throughout Waukesha County.

### Sandy Stuttgen, Taylor County Agriculture Educator

Thank you for the financial resources from the Henry L. Ahlgren Award to attend and present at the 2012 Women in Agriculture Educators National Conference in Memphis, TN. This conference highlights successful risk management education programs targeted to women producer audiences nationwide. This year's sessions focused on agri-tourism programs (small farm businesses working with the public on their farms; i.e. farm tours, pick-your-own produce, direct marketing). I participated in the conference by presenting my work networking with farm women in North Central Wisconsin. While attending other sessions, I gained knowledge of additional risk management resources I can use to enhance my programming efforts with the farm women I network with. I will also use this knowledge helping other agriculturists in Taylor County. I am planning to use some of the information learned while co-hosting the UW-Extension Taylor/Price/Rusk: North Central Small Farms Conference this fall.



### Maria Bendixen, Clark County Agriculture Educator

Thank you for the financial resources to allow me to attend the 2012 Women in Agriculture Educators National Conference in Memphis, TN. I participated in the conference by presenting on animal welfare and public perception. This program was valuable because public perception is a risk to agriculture that is often overlooked. The people who attended this presentation will have the opportunity to share the information with the people in their states. I also gained knowledge of additional risk management resources that I can use to enhance my programming efforts in Clark County. These included liability, price, and environmental risks. I learned quite a bit about legal liability risks with agritourism which I have already been able to share with a producer in my county.



## YOUR WISCONSIN RETIREMENT FUNDS IN ACTION

Dwayne A. Rohweder, ESP Representative to the Coalition of Annuitants

First, I want to thank the Alpha Sigma Chapter of ESP for the "Retiree Service Award". My extension career that started with county extension work in 1948 has been an adventure, exciting, and a pleasure. The recognition is appreciated.

### The Stock Market to Date

The market in the first quarter of 2012 had the best first quarter in 14 years with the Dow up 8% and the S&P up 12%. The market held its own in April. May is behind us following the old, most widely cited and accurate of market precepts "Sell in May and Walk Away" (maybe even to the end of October). May had only five positive trading days with no two positive days in a row and closing the worst month in two years. On Friday June 1, the Dow closed negative losing everything gained in 2012. The next week it rebounded up 3.6% with four trading days in a row, but volatility continues.

### Wisconsin Retirement Funds

The Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) remains sound. This year, 2012, is the last year of the 2008 loss. In addition, the low earnings of 1.4% in the Core Trust Fund, Table 1, with the negative 7.0% annuity adjustment resulted in a loss of \$935 million to be recognized over five years 2011-2015. The Core out-performed the Variable Trust fund, in part, due to positive returns in the Private Equity and Real Estate portfolios.

Table 1 - WRS Performance for 2011 and in 2012

<u>Item</u>	<u>Core</u>	<u>Variable</u>
December 31, 2011	+1.4%	-3.0%
Annuity Adjustment	-7.0%	-7.0%
January 31, 2012	+3.8%	+5.7 %
February 29	6.8%	10.7%
March 31	7.4%	12.7%
April 30	7.5%	11.7%
May 31	3.1%	3.0%

The WRS funds to date have followed the above mentioned trends in the stock market. Both trust funds remained positive at the end of May.

Although WRS assets have experienced three consecutive years of positive returns since 2008, those returns have not been enough to offset losses suffered in 2008's stock market collapse. Post-retirement increases are solely dependent on WRS trust fund performance. Remember by law, your Core annuity is guaranteed to never be reduced below the amount originally set at retirement (your base or floor). Because of this guarantee and the large number of people retiring since 2008, as of December 31, 2012 at least 88,000 annuitants and 58% of annuities will not be subject to the full negative annuity adjustment in 2013. Thus, less than one-half of the annuitants will be subject to any possible reduction in 2013.



Dwayne Rohweder, center, receiving his Retiree Service Award.

A 7.2% investment return in 2012 will result in a projected average annuity adjustment between -4.2% to -4.6% and a maximum annuity adjustment between -12% and -16%. Additional projections will be presented as we reach year's end. Remember these estimates are cast in 'Jello' and not in stone.

SWIB goals proposed for 2012 include: 1) continued use of risk reducing investment strategies to enhance diversification and review of additional investment instruments to achieve similar returns with less volatility, and 2) enhance cross-agency project enterprise risk management and affectively identify and manage risks associated with SWIB investment and operational activities.

Remember you are receiving a 3.6% increase in Federal Pension and Social Security returns. And, the study on the future of the WRS Defined Benefit/Defined Contribution pension is scheduled to be released at the end of this month (June 30, 2012). Stories are already being circulated. Stay connected.



**IN MEMORIAM** -- We are saddened to share that we received information of losing three friends and colleagues since our last newsletter.

**Michelle Mielke**, age 49, passed away in June 2011 (information just received). Michelle served Marathon County UW-Extension as a WNEP and Horticulture Agent.

**Emma Mae "Mae" Reese**, age 91, passed away March 14, 2012. Mae graduated from UW-Madison in 1944, majoring in Home Economics and Education. She taught Home Economics in Verona, Minocqua, and New Holstein High Schools. In 1953, she began her work as a UW Extension Home Agent in Waupaca County for 2 years, then in Rock County (Janesville) for 10 ½ years and moving to Milwaukee County in 1966 as a Home Economist, retiring from there in July, 1982. Her many interests included music, travel, antiques, genealogy, and organizations pertaining to her Celtic heritage.

**Wayne A. Eastman**, age 85, passed away March 29, 2012. Wayne served his country in the United States Navy during WWII. He was a graduate of UW-Madison and served as the Door County 4-H Agent for 30 years. He loved horses and enjoyed training, riding and showing Arabian horses. His wife, Pat survives, along with many nieces and nephews.



### **Help Us Recognize Colleagues Who Have Passed On**

As a service to our ESP membership, we try to share information of colleagues deaths. You can help by forwarding information you become aware of to JoAnn Gruber-Hagen. She will prepare announcements for ESP newsletters and ESP gatherings. If you have an ESP event and would like to recognize colleagues who have passed, contact JoAnn and she will be sure you have the most recent information. You can contact JoAnn at W4048 Kammes Drive, Belleville, WI 53508 or [hickoryridge@merr.com](mailto:hickoryridge@merr.com).



## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Peg Reedy, Outgoing Chair

### The ESP Endowment Fund:

#### Our Commitment to Professional Development for Extension Educators

The 2012 JCEP Conference provided a great venue for ESP Resource Development fundraising activities. Over \$1200 was raised through the silent auction/raffle activities and thanks is due to not only the well-attired “encouragement” of Cara Carper and Peggy Compton (see right), but to all those who donated items or engaged in the purchase of raffle tickets or bidding.

Professional development opportunities for Extension Professionals are the driving force behind the ESP Endowment Fund. As we continue to attract dedicated and talented educators, we would like to remind them and the rest of our membership who were instrumental in forming and sustaining the Endowment for continuing education, by featuring these people in this and upcoming issues of the newsletter.

The ESP Professional Development Endowment was founded in 1982 with a gift of \$45,900 from Henry Ahlgren, former Director of Cooperative Extension, a tremendous advocate of professional development for county based Extension educators. Dr. Ahlgren was responsible for restructuring Extension for more effective outreach, making it a national model for the sharing of university research, the “Wisconsin Idea”. An agronomist and former Agronomy Department Head for UW-Madison, Dr. Ahlgren also initiated the Ahlgren Endowment specifically for agriculture educators to improve their ability to work in modernizing family farms, to develop creative means to support and maintain family farms, and to develop and implement niche farming in Wisconsin. Since 1982, \$303,990 has been donated to the Foundation.

The Resource Development Committee is looking for new members as terms of a number of members are expiring. Thanks so much for their service and support in promoting the endowment. Contact Cara Carper (608-328-9440; [cara.carper@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:cara.carper@ces.uwex.edu)) to become a member of the Resource Development Committee. Representatives from the Agriculture and Natural Resources and Family Living Program areas as well as our retirees are encouraged to serve on this committee.

You can support the ESP professional development fund at any level. You may contribute by sending a check to ESP Endowment Fund, Cooperative Extension, 601 Extension Building, 432 North Lake St. Madison, WI 53706 or go to <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/admin/esp/> to use a credit card. Contact the UW Extension payroll office to donate through payroll deduction. Individuals giving to the ESP endowment can be recognized for different levels of contribution on “The Evergreens”, a metal sculpture displayed outside the VandeBerg Auditorium at the Pyle Center.

Thank you for all of your support!

ESP Resource Development Committee:

Peg Reedy, Chair; Cara Carper, Chair-elect;

Annie Jones; Gloria Fauerbach; Paul Roback



## **RETIREE COMMITTEE**

Kathi Vos, Committee Member

James Barthel, ESP Lifetime member and retired 4-H Educator, Winnebago County, will be inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on October 12, 2012 for his lifetime achievements and contributions to 4-H. Honored by the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA), he is one of 16 people to be inducted during the ceremony held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD.



Jim began 4-H as a 5 year old “tag-a-long” 4-Her when his older brother joined and his parents became 4-H leaders. This early experience impacted his lifelong 4-H professional efforts to create a 4-H program with a family focus. He began 10 years of membership at age 9 and took dairy, woodworking, gardening, and youth leadership projects. His leaders and peers challenged him to try new things; to enter speech, drama, demonstration events; and share his skills. State 4-H Chorus, State Congress, State Judging Contests, and National 4-H Dairy Conference provided lifelong friends. In college he joined UW-Madison collegiate 4-H and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He then spent three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador, CA, working with their Extension Service doing 4-C Club and community development.

His 29 year professional career as a UW-Extension 4-H Youth Educator included Green and Winnebago Counties. His wife, Carolyn, son, Kevin, and daughters, Sarah and Emily are all 4-H graduates. His programs always included strong youth/adult leadership development and infusion of life skills into all club and project activities. Outreach to underserved audiences, conducting and applying research, and being a resource reflect the cornerstones of his career.

In retirement he continues to mentor current 4-H staff and serves on the UWEX Centennial History Committee. He works part-time as a training officer for the UW-Oshkosh Career Development Center as a Training Officer for AmeriCorps and Adult Learning classes. Community involvement includes Board service for The Salvation Army, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, WINR (a “cars for work” organization), Evergreen Retirement Community, and as a Literacy Council tutor.

Jim says, “I can’t think of any other career or experience that would have been as personally fulfilling and also allowed contributing to others. You learn and teach at the same time while doing 4-H. Thank you to all the youth and adults who shared their life journeys.”

## **Wisconsin: One of the Top ESP Chapters in the Nation!**

Edie Felts-Podoll, Past Membership Chair

Did you know that at the 2011 ESP National Conference that our Wisconsin Alpha Sigma chapter was recognized for membership and overall chapter performance? Annually, state officers are asked to complete reports that highlight activities and procedures that the state uses to maintain a quality ESP chapter. This helps the National ESP office track new efforts that can be used to encourage other chapters and to recognize innovation. These reports are due annually May 1. A national ESP committee reviews these reports based on rankings for specific outcomes.



In 2011, Wisconsin was presented with "Chapter of Merit" at the Platinum level, the highest level possible. For the Chapter of Merit, the national committee reviews overall organization, leadership opportunities, services provided to members, professional development, participation in PILD, and opportunities for grants. In Paul Roback's report he highlighted our active board of directors, the recent strategic planning effort, effective committees, local awards, and recognition. Three additional accomplishments are 1) JCEP where ESP are working partners with the other professional associations, 2) fully funding a PILD delegate, and 3) providing substantial grant funds for professional development.

You might say, "SO, we always do those things." Indeed yes we do. However, what we consider normal is exemplary according to national ESP evaluators.

As for membership, in 2011 Wisconsin was recognized at the Gold level for "Achievement in Chapter Membership". We were scored against other chapters for conducting a membership campaign and the actual membership numbers for retention, expansion, and encouraging life membership. 2011-12 President Joan LeFebvre and President-Elect Peggy Compton accepted the awards.

Again, in Wisconsin, it is just how we do ESP business but it really is outstanding, and I thought you might like to know.

In addition to these chapter awards ESP National Awards were received by Mary Brintnall-Peterson for Distinguished Service and Paul Roback for Early Career. Over the years many of our colleagues that have been recognized by our state chapter go on to receive the top honor at the national level, as well. Way to go Mary and Paul! Thanks for bringing Wisconsin more notoriety!

It has been my pleasure to serve as ESP membership Chair for the last three years. Your new chair is Faye Malek, Family Living Educator in Manitowoc. She along with the new Board will continue to promote Wisconsin excellence.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Faye Malek, Chair

The annual membership drive was conducted from November 1, 2011 and January 20, 2012. All Cooperative Extension employees were invited to join ESP or to renew their membership through a combination of "Extension All" emails, newsletter articles, personal phone calls, and letters.

The Membership Committee was active in developing strategies to contact potential members. A list was provided by District Assistants indicating new hires. A list of retirements is available monthly so newly retired Extension staff can be offered an opportunity for annual retiree or life membership.

2012 membership includes 9 new members, 112 employed annual members, 3 annual retired members, 156 life members, for a total membership of 280. The ESP Membership Committee website will have the latest membership forms and information posted by August 1. Check it out and encourage your colleagues, new and old, to join ESP!



## THE STORIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER

Edie Felts-Podoll, Family Living Retiree, Adams County Extension 1977-2010

UW-Extension Family Living Education retirees have been meeting for decades. Recently, they gather twice a year. A planning committee chooses a location and organizes an educational program, time for updates, and of course lunch. On May 9, thirty-one retirees met at Camp Upham Woods on the shores of the beautiful Wisconsin River for the annual spring gathering. The theme was “Favorite Memories of Extension – Celebrating the Cooperative Extension Centennial”.

The presentations included “The Featherweight Sewing Machine”, presented by Jean Brew (Adams and Sauk County Extension). Most of us had either used the little Singer workhorse for demonstrating the latest sewing techniques or moved it around a storage closet at the County Extension office from time to time. Jean also shared local stories of Wakelin McNeil, fondly called “Ranger Mac”, who grew up in Kilbourne (Wisconsin Dells) and made substantial contributions to UW-Extension and Camp Upham Woods.

An afternoon highlight was the presentation and display of historical clothing “Dressed for Success” that represented what might have been worn by the working Home Agent, Home Demonstration Agent, Home Economist or Family Living Agent/Educator—all titles of Family Living staff depending on the years when you worked. Theresa Wimann, Adams County WNEP Coordinator and Sue Nagelkerk, Sauk County Family Living Educator researched the stories and gathered the clothing. Each decade featured Extension employees with examples of clothing they might have worn. Those featured in the display were colleagues and friends of those of us participating in the festivities.

1910's: Nellie Kedzie Jones

1920's: Gladys “Sally” Stillman

1930's: Marlys Ruth Richert

1940's: Helene Felts

1950's: Rosemary Thornton Stare

1960's: Helen Jackson

1970's: Cheryl Rew Stapleton

1980's: David Riley

1990's: Karen Bogenschneider

1990's: Nancy Coffey

2000's: Gail Peavey

2000's: Kshinté Brathwaite

2010's: Mary Jo Liesch

2010's: Clifton Barber

2010's: Amber Canto

Many retirees brought artifacts from their working days and clothing items worn during their careers. Later in the afternoon more stories were shared. Centennial Celebration cake, designed by Betty Heller-Hobbs, planning committee member and wife of former Upham Woods Director, Jack Heller, was eaten.

There were individuals with careers spanning six decades. One joined Extension in the 40s and others joined Extension in the 90s, now all are retired. What they had in common was the Extension work ethic, camaraderie, and enthusiasm for people and projects that fills a room with electricity when like minded individuals gather. We enjoyed the fun and several of the retirees were convinced to share their stories on the UW-Extension Centennial website. Stay tuned for the next chapter.

Want to join us? If you worked in Extension and are now retired or retirement age, our fall meeting has been scheduled for October 10 in the Wisconsin Dells area. If you are not on the HEER (Home Economics Extension Retirees) email or mailing list, drop a line to Edie Felts-Podoll, W13352 Cottonville Lane, Coloma, WI 54930 or at [stonehvn@uniontel.net](mailto:stonehvn@uniontel.net).



# 2012 ESP Picnic

## Tuesday, August 21

It's time to register for the annual ESP Summer Picnic! Catch up on the latest from friends, Cooperative Extension Programs, and CALS. Mark your calendar and send your registration now.

**When: Tuesday, August 21, 2012**

**Where: Lakeview Park Shelter on Allen Blvd.  
(Middleton between University Ave and Century Blvd)**



### PROGRAM

**2:30 pm Social Time with complimentary beverages**

**4:00 pm Introductions - Larry Bundy, Picnic Chair**  
**Welcome - 2012/2013 ESP President Peggy Compton**  
**Retirement Benefits Update - Dwayne Rohweder**  
**Greetings and Administrative Updates:**  
     **UW-Extension Chancellor Ray Cross**  
     **CES Dean Rick Klemme**  
     **CALS Deans Kate VancenBosch & John Shutske**  
**Gone But Not Forgotten - Joann Gruber-Hagen**  
**Invocation - Jerry Doll**

**5:00 pm Picnic Buffet - Grilled Beef Tenderloin (6 oz) and Grilled Chicken**

**Cost: \$20 per person which includes beverages, both entrees, tax and gratuity**

Any checks from no-shows will be donated in their name to the ESP Foundation (tax deductible donation).

**Hosts:** Larry Bundy (Chair), Ron Schuler (Vice-Chair), Marv Beatty, Larry Binning, Al Bringe, Bob Cropp, Ron Doersch, Jerry Doll, Jim Everts, Vern Forest, Walt Gojmerac, Truman Graf, Craig Grau, Frank Groves, Bob Hall, Pete Hoekstra, Keith Kelling, Bob Luening, Rollie Manthe, Leonard Massie, Mary Mennes, Tom O'Connell, Clarence Olson, Tom Parslow, Art Peterson, Dwayne Rohweder, John Roberts, Jerry Smith, Rosemary Stare, Walt Stevenson, Glenn Thompson, Dick Vathauer, Dick Vilstrup, Gale VandeBerg, Leo Walsh, Gayle Worf, Maury White, and Jeff Wyman.

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose check payable to ESP for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @\$20 each TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Respond by Friday, August 17.

**Mary Mennes**  
**7747 Schurch Road**  
**Barneveld, WI 53507**

Questions? Call Mary at 608-924-1721 or email: [memennes@mhtc.net](mailto:memennes@mhtc.net)



**EPSILON SIGMA PHI**  
Newsletter  
432 N. Lake Street, Ste. 601  
Madison, WI 53706-1498

This newsletter is published in March, July, and November. The deadline for submission is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

### ***MISSION OF ESP***

The mission of Epsilon Sigma Phi is to foster standards of excellence in the Extension System and to develop the Extension profession and professional. Since Epsilon Sigma Phi was established in 1927 in Bozeman, Montana, members have worked to strengthen the impact of the Extension System to address needs of individuals and communities through research-based education. ESP is one of the oldest and is the largest organization of Extension Professionals. Epsilon Sigma Phi is an equal opportunity/affirmative action organization. The organization values and seeks a diverse membership.

### **Save the Dates!!**

August 21, 2012 - ESP Picnic,  
Middleton

October 6-9, 2012 - National ESP  
Conference, Mobile, AL

April 17-18, 2013 - JCEP  
Conference, Wisconsin Dells

September 15-20, 2013 - ESP  
Annual Conference held in  
conjunction with the 4th Galaxy  
Conference, Pittsburgh, PA