

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER- JOHN FORSHEE

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Greetings to our membership of Alpha Rho Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

**Membership** - October 1 is the beginning of our K-State Research and Extension Program Year and also the beginning of our Alpha Rho chapter fiscal year. As such, it will be time to pay our Annual Dues at the KSRE Annual Conference. I just want to remind you of a couple of changes that will affect how we pay dues this year. First of all, the chapter voted recently to do away with the associate membership and to make annual membership available to new agents and specialists from the beginning of employment to be more in alignment with the national ESP organization. As a part of this change, members joining for the first time will pay National dues only for the first year. Dues for Annual Membership are \$70 and that first year membership is \$40 for national dues only plus a \$5.00 initiation fee for a total of \$45. Annual members that are renewing for 2019 will receive an invoice from the National ESP organization on or around October 1. This invoice will have instructions for paying dues. New members are encouraged to pay by check and may contact the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee chairperson, Stacey Warner, with any questions. Each year at the association annual meeting we draw for one free membership from the paid members at the time of the annual meeting held during annual conference. If your name is drawn, your dues will be refunded to you or your unit depending upon who paid the dues. One final reminder is that this is the second year that dues may be paid from non-appropriated funds of units or departments. Please check with your board, local unit director, or department head to see if your unit/department has approved the payment of association dues.

**Endowment** - Your ESP Endowment provides many financial opportunities for members that choose to apply. Professional Development Grant applications are due May 1 and Program Innovation Grants are due August 15. See the ESP website for complete details to apply. We often just take this for granted but it is only through the generous donations of members over the years that these grants are available. As the All-University Campaign is launched this fall I encourage you to join those who have donated to the Endowment by choosing ESP as a beneficiary of your donation. You may also simply fill out a contribution form attached to the Endowment Bro-



Manhattan,  
Kansas  
October 1-4, 2018

*Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) is dedicated to fostering standards of excellence in the Extension system and developing the Extension profession and professional.*

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER CONTINUED...

chure and make your donation directly with a check or payroll deduction.

You may also go directly to the KSU Foundation and make your donation on-line by as well. Remember to select or reference Fund #D74110.

<http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/esp-alpharho/endowment/>

As the end of my year as your chapter president approaches, I want to say it has certainly been my honor to represent you all. We have a great team of officers and committee chairs that have worked very hard to make Alpha Rho one of the strongest chapters in the nation. We look forward to showcasing all we have in Kansas at the National Meeting to be held October 1-4, 2018 in Manhattan.

**John Forshee**, President  
K-State Research and Extension  
Alpha Rho Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Phi

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## THANK YOU!

ESP Endowment—

Thank you for the grant support that will allow Kansas Extension Professionals to attend the 2018 National meeting in Manhattan this fall. I feel fortunate to receive one of these scholarships and look forward to attending this conference for the first time. Your support making this possible is very much appreciated.

*Deb Wood*

Deb Wood, Central Kansas District

Dear ESP Members,

Thank you for the \$400 grant to attend the 2018 ESP National Conference. This will be the first time I am able to attend this conference and I am excited about the opportunity to attend. I am looking forward to the networking and program expansion opportunities.

*Sarah Maass*

Sarah Maass



# PILD REFLECTION

SUBMITTED BY ERIN YELLAND



Franklin Delano Roosevelt was arguably one of the most profound and transformational leaders in our nation's history. If you have visited the FDR memorial in DC, you have had the privilege to walk among some of his most inspiring and memorable words – not the least of which is pictured to the left. Although this quote is situated next to his 'better seven-eighths', as Gregg Hadley would say, these words were actually spoken during his address to Congress following the Yalta Conference in 1945. Seventy-three years later, these words spoke volumes to me, not because we are tasked with combating Nazism and

the peace and civilization of the world, but because we are working together, **cooperatively**, to enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities across our great state. When talking about the work of Extension, I often say that we cannot do it alone, and indeed, we cannot. But, what we can do is work together to develop partnerships and purposeful initiatives that will move us, even if ever-so-slightly, towards our mission and goals. I firmly believe that without wonderful organizations like ESP, we may not be as successful in these endeavors.

In early April, I was given the opportunity to attend to PILD – or the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference – hosted by the JCEP in Crystal City, VA. This year's theme was "Civil Dialogue in the Public Arena". Timely and relevant, don't you think? Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer, Executive Director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse, was the keynote speaker and the title of her presentation was "Incivility and Political Dysfunction: How Did We Get Here and What Can We Do?". She beautifully laid out just that, and challenged us all to change the script from incivility to civility, and in doing so, contribute to saving our democracy. A simple, but incredibly impactful, step we can take to improve civility, she said, is to learn more about the Civility Pledge, sign it, and adopt those practices into our own lives. To learn about the Civility Pledge, visit [revivecivility.org](http://revivecivility.org).

Additionally, I had the opportunity to learn from other leaders in Extension across the country, participate in [A Peace of My Mind](#), meet with National Program Leaders from USDA NIFA, and attend sessions preparing for our visits on the Hill. One of the most valuable part of this conference, though, brings me back to FDR and his idea of "cooperative effort" – and that was networking. Are there Extension professionals in our state who you have never met? I would venture to say that most of us would say, "yes!" By attending PILD, my list got a little bit shorter. Not only did I have the pleasure of meeting people from Kansas whom I had never met, but of course I met numerous others from across the country that are passionate about Extension and working together for a common cause. Some of the best networking occurred during ESP's night out, where nearly 30 of us gathered to dine, network, and brainstorm how to make ESP even better.



## PILD REFLECTION CONTINUED...

Our trip culminated by visiting some VIPs on the Hill – our own Senators, Congressmen, and Congresswomen. It was an honor to represent K-State Research and Extension and help to paint the picture of the relevant and timely work we are doing in the state. I was especially impressed by our 4-H delegates, who beautifully and confidently represented KSRE's 4-H program and the profound impact it has had on their lives.

This was one of the best conferences I have had the privilege of attending (shhh...don't tell my other professional organizations!), and I was honored to represent the Alpha Rho Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi. Thank you for entrusting me to be a leader in our organization, and thereby giving me the opportunity to represent us at PILD. In closing, I would like for you to consider how ESP has benefitted your professional career. Who have you met that you otherwise might not have? What cooperative efforts have developed with an ESP colleague? Then, share that good word with others and invite them to become members of our organization. Together, we can make a difference.

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## PLAN TO ATTEND NATIONAL ESP CONFERENCE

A "once in a career event" will occur in Manhattan on October 1-4. The Alpha Rho Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi will host the National Conference at the Hilton Garden Inn. Registration is still open. Go to:  
<https://epsilonsigmaphi.wildapricot.org/2018-Conference>

**Stacey Warner  
And  
Jennifer Wilson**

**2018  
ESP National  
Conference  
Co-Chairs**

Why should you plan to attend? Several reasons -

- A national extension professional conference may never be closer!
- The ESP conference includes professionals from all Extension disciplines so it's a great opportunity to get a comprehensive view of the extension profession.
- It's a smaller conference so there is an opportunity to interact with most conference attendees (attendance is generally about 200 people).
- There will be outstanding speakers, concurrent sessions and poster presentations including several of our chapter members.

Twenty nine chapter members have been awarded scholarships from the local Extension Endowment Fund.

Chapter members have been working on the conference for about two years. There will be additional opportunities for members to volunteer closer to the conference.

# JOINT COUNCIL OF EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE

## SUBMITTED BY LINDA BEECH

Thanks so much for the opportunity to represent our Kansas Alpha Rho ESP chapter at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals conference in Orlando, FL on February 14-15. In addition to the warm weather and swaying palm trees, I really enjoyed the terrific conference. I learned a lot from the keynote speaker and breakout sessions. But the ESP sessions were really helpful and insightful.

I picked up some great ideas from other states at the ESP sharing time on the first day of the conference. There was something mentioned for nearly every committee in Kansas!

A couple of things stood out in the discussion that might be worth considering for possible implementation in Kansas--

- One state gives a STATE Ruby Award annually to recognize outstanding ESP leadership and service. Then that person becomes their national nominee, and therefore they have someone to nominate every year for the national Ruby Award.
- In another state, the recognition committee is charged with identifying worthy nominees for awards categories where no one has applied, then they contact those members and ask them to apply. This ensures the state has nominees in every award category every year.
- I was especially interested in how many states actively engage their life members on programs, committees, trips and serving as officers at the state, regional and even national levels. A few states actively solicit life members to support the state ESP professional development fund and an endowed college scholarship fund for children of Extension staff.

Thanks again for the opportunity to represent our Alpha Rho Chapter at the 2018 JCEP Conference. It is a conference I had not had the chance to attend before, but I found it to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience, both personally and professionally. I hope that my attendance will continue to benefit our chapter as we explore some of the new ideas I was able to bring back.

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## ESP LEADERSHIP NEEDED!

It's not too early to start thinking about nominations for ESP leadership for the coming year. Positions that will be open are President elect, Secretary, Editor, Northeast Council Director and Southeast Council Director. The secretary and editor may be re-elected to succeeding terms. Serving as an officer is a great way to enhance your leadership skills and get to know colleagues from all extension disciplines. If you are interested in serving please contact Nadine Sigle, past president. Or when asked to serve please give it full consideration. It's a great experience.

# BENEFITS OF BEING AN EXTENSION PROFESSIONAL BY STACEY WARNER

*This article is taken from the K-State Research & Extension Tuesday Letter, August, 7, 2018.*

What are the benefits of being an extension professional? I will be retiring December 29, 2018 so it's been interesting to reflect on the benefits based on a full career with K-State Research and Extension. I've been able to experience the organization from several perspectives - the first half as an agent in Pawnee and Finney Counties and the last half as a member of the administrative team.

Here are the benefits that I've experienced.

**The team** – I have a great appreciation for the benefit of being part of a productive KSRE team. The longer I have worked, the more appreciation I have for the unique role of each individual who is employed by KSRE. I don't know everyone but I do know lots of you. When someone is missing, something isn't happening.

Occasionally over the years I might have heard someone downplaying the responsibilities of another person or group of people. From my perspective that's harmful to all of us! I've found that it's far more productive to be "for" my colleagues, whatever their role, rather than "against" them. Others can do something I can't do.

**The people** - We are in the people business so it would follow that the opportunity to serve people would be a benefit. Our clientele can hear and read lots of information from many sources. Our unique niche is that we can facilitate engagement with and application of that information - whether it is youth making decisions at 4-H camp, adults and youth improving their health by participating in Walk Kansas, ag producers increasing profit margins by using KSRE's decision making tools or local residents carrying out goals to re-vitalize their communities. People choose to participate in our programming!

**The mentors** - I am thankful for the benefit of those who have mentored me - both formally and those who may not have known that I was watching and learning from them. I've shared this story before in mentor workshops, but one thing I will always remember about my first assigned mentor was her positive attitude. She told me how great her Extension colleagues were and how fun it was to go to camp and to work at the state fair. Well, I learned that those events might involve elements that weren't always fun. However, I am thankful that she let me figure that out on my own. All of us influence others - how can we use that influence in a positive way? Especially how can we be a positive influence for our newest colleagues?

**The changes** - I appreciate the benefit of being part of an organization that changes. While universities may sometimes be described as slow to change, believe me, we are a different organization that we were years ago - as we should be. While I have experienced plenty of the discomfort of change, I've

## BENEFITS CONTINUED...

challenged myself by asking "Where are we headed and how can I be a positive contributor to that change?" I look forward to watching the changes that KSRE will make to continue to be relevant and reliable.

**The professional development** - When we do agent exit interviews, professional development is almost always mentioned as a benefit of employment with KSRE. I am thankful for the professional development that has allowed me to acquire new skills and knowledge and to challenge my thought processes and assumptions.

Thanks to K-State Research and Extension for providing these benefits and being my employer of choice!

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## PAYING 2019 DUES

Our chapter is continuing the transition to the national ESP membership management system. The next step in that transition will be that each current member will receive an invoice from the National ESP Office about October 1 (yes- the first day of the national conference). Please be watching for that invoice. If you have paid dues by the business meeting on October 16 you will be eligible for the drawing for free dues.

Stacey Warner  
Chapter Membership Chair

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## VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT THE 2018 NATIONAL ESP CONFERENCE

Our conference planning steering committee has been hard at work for almost two years planning for the event and we're very excited that it is almost here! In order for us to be able to pull off such an event we need YOUR help! We've identified a number of ways in which volunteers can help. They are listed at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4ba4ae28a64-national> . Please take a look and sign-up to assist where you can. Thank you to those who have already volunteered!



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*Knowledge for  
Life*

## 2018 ELEVATOR SPEECH CONTEST

*This article is taken from the June/July 2018 National ESP Newsletter written by Jennifer Grogan, ESP Southern Region VP and Public Issues Committee Chair*

The National ESP Public Issues (PI) Committee members hope that you will plan to join them in video your elevator speech during the upcoming National ESP Conference "Vast Prairies-Endless Possibilities," October 1-4, in Manhattan, Kansas.

The fluctuation of funding has made communicating the role, impact, and value of Extension a necessity for all Extension professionals. Can you gain support by communicating the value of Extension in a brief, persuasive speech? Sometimes, you may only have 20-30 seconds—the time spent in an elevator—to create interest. Spend some time composing and practicing your elevator speech—remember only 20-30 seconds long. Come to the National Conference prepared to video your speech for the PI Committee Elevator Speech Contest. Not only will entering the contest provide practice, but you will win a monetary incentive if you place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. Specific times and places for recording your elevator speech will be posted at the conference. We hope to see you there!

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE SILENT AUCTION

The Silent Auction Committee needs your help in securing items for the auction to be held at Annual Conference. Past items have included: K-State stuff, KC Chiefs/Royals, quilted items, holiday items (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas), etc. If you, or a colleague, have a special hobby—woodworking, art, photography, salsa making, wine making, beer brewing, etc.—please encourage them to donate something for the auction. It is always fun to see the talent that is within our organization. Or, perhaps you have a local volunteer that has a unique item to Kansas or your community; consider asking them to support us by donating an item. Gift cards are another way to participate. It might be a \$10 Sonic card, Amazon card, or other type of card that anyone could use.

If you have an item to donate, please email Jodi Besthorn at [Besthorn@ksu.edu](mailto:Besthorn@ksu.edu) You can bring the item to annual conference on Tuesday.

And of course, we will need buyers too!!! We look forward to some competitive bidding during the auction!!