[](http://esp.msue.msu.edu/)

Minutes

October 16, 2018

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, East Lansing, MI

**Call to order:** The annual meeting of the Michigan Epsilon Sigma Phi Alpha Psi Chapter was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2018 at the Kellogg Conference Center, East Lansing, MI The meeting convened at 7:15 a.m. ET in person with President Shari Spoelman presiding. Members of the board in attendance: President Shari Spoelman, President Elect Julia Darnton, Past President Jeannie Nichols, Treasurer Steve Lovejoy, Secretary Beth Waitrovich, Membership Chair Joyce McGarry, and Historian Emily Proctor.

Members in attendance: Ronald Bates, Jennifer Berkey, Bindu Bhakta, Joseph Bixler, Teresa Clark-Jones, Dawn Contreras, Patrick Cudney, Pam Daniels, Joanne Davidhizar, Dawn Earnesty, Deanna East, Sarah Eichberger, Cheryl Eschbach, Karen Fifield, Terry Gibb, Thomas Guthrie, Sheilah Hebert, William Hendrian, Becky Henne, Cheryl Howell, Dave Ivan, Michelle Jarvie, Brian Klatt, Terry McLean, Michael Metzger, Kendra Moyses, Dorothy Munn, Jinnifer Ortquist, Julie Pioch, Bethany Prykucki, Beverly Przystas, Brenda Reau, Rebecca Rogers, Dixie Sanborn, Jodi Schulz, Matthew Shane, Gwyn Shelle, Mark Thomas, Phil Tocco, Lisa Treiber, Jennifer Weichel, Bonnie Zoia Wichtner, Kendra Wills, Mary Wilson, and Richard Wooten.

Life Members in attendance: Janice Hartough, Jan Seitz, Ann Hinsdale-Knisel

**President’s Report – Shari Spoelman** See report below.

**Treasurer’s Report – Steve Lovejoy –** See report below.

**Proposed Bylaw changes – Shari Spoelman** Shari reviewed the proposed bylaws change. The proposed changed would change the years of service from three to one year for new members. Members were given the opportunity to comment on the proposal. Each member voted on the proposed change via written ballot.

**Recognition of Life Members – Shari Spoelman** Appreciation expressed to the ESP Life members who took the time to attend the Annual Meeting.

**Results of bylaws proposal vote: Shari Spoelman** The results of the bylaws change vote were reported as follows: 51 yes, 3 no. Bylaws change passed.

**New Member induction Ceremony: Bonnie Wichtner-Zois and Bethany Prykusky president.**

* The new members and their sponsors are listed below:

New Member Sponsor

Stephanie Marino Jinnifer Ortquist

Deann Moore

Kylie Romanowicz

Christy Evans Dawn Earnesty

Jeff Dwyer Shari Spoelman

Georgia Peterson Shari Spoelman

Marilyn Thelan Shari Spoelman

Sarah Rautio Shari Spoelman

Kaitlin Wojciak

**Election of Officers – Bethanyt Prykucki** After the officer candidates gave a brief bio, members voted by ballot on new officers for President elect and Historian.

**Historian Report – Emily Proctor** Emily provided the membership with a memorial of ESP members that passed during the year. Those remembered were: Don Hillman, Alvin Root and William Mills.

**Awards Presentation – Julie Darntnon assisted by Jinnifer Ortquist**

The 2018 ESP Award winners are as follows:

* **Friend of Extension –** Michigan Horse Council (Present at Tuesday luncheon)
* **Distinguished Service Recognition –** Marie Ruemenapp
* **Mid-Career Service –** Becky Henne
* **Early Career Service –** Dawn Earnesty
* **International Service –** Andy Northrup
* **Retiree Service –** Jan Seitz
* **Visionary Leadership –** Gwyn Shelle
* **Meritorious Program Support –** Lori Martin

**Results from Officer Election:**

* **President Elect –** Brian Klatt
* **Historian –** Emily Proctor

**Recognition of Outgoing & Installation of New Officers – Jeannie Nichols**

* **President –** Julia Darnton
* **President Elect –** Brian Klatt
* **Past President –** Shari Spoelman
* **Treasurer –** Steve Lovejoy
* **Secretary –** Beth Waitrovich
* **Historian –** Emily Proctor

**Global Relations: Georgia Peterson** Georgia presented to the members information about the upcoming 2018 ESP Professional Development Study Tour to Peru, “Los Tres Perus: A Journey”. The trip will take place May 10-25, 2019. Information about the trip including cost and registration form is located on the ESP Michigan Alpha Psi Chapter website.

**Motion to destroy ballots** was made by Matt Shane and seconded by Beth Waitrovich. Motion passed.

**Extension Creed – Beth Waitrovich** Beth led the members in the reading of the Extension Creed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

President’s Report – Shari Spoelman

Fall Extension Conference is an exciting time for all of us – it is an opportunity for the entire organization to get together once a year. And for ESP members, it is a time for us to come together to celebrate our membership and accomplishments, and plan for the future at this, our annual meeting.

Epsilon Sigma Phi focuses its efforts on providing a valuable member experience across all disciplines in Extension that includes opportunities for professional development, awards, international study tours, along with networking and leadership opportunities to both current and retired members.

Highlights from this past year.

* Our chapter stepped into 2018 proudly supporting 95 active members (a 30% increase from the previous year) and 105 Life member retirees. Today we will be inducting 8 new members.
* At the National Conference earlier this month, the Michigan chapter of ESP received a “Gold” award for our chapter effectiveness. We also received the highest distinction – a “Platinum” award for membership. These awards are a positive reflection of our successful state chapter. We have been blessed with committed membership and an outstanding board.
* We are pleased today to announce an ESP international study trip.
* In an effort to make ESP more accessible to extension professionals early in their career, we are proposing a bylaws change today.

“ESP Tours Around Michigan”

Understanding the importance of the relationships we develop through work, ESP has made a commitment to provide networking and professional development opportunities.

* We are introducing “ESP Tours Around Michigan”
* Purpose: To provide professional development and networking opportunities for ESP members throughout the state throughout the year.
* What’s it look like? Anyone anywhere can set one up. Ideally, we have 3-4 seasonal tours somewhere (throughout) the state. The tour will be a learning experience for ESP members and an opportunity to network with Extension staff you wouldn’t otherwise have an opportunity to get to know.
* Examples:
  + Eastern Market in Detroit
  + A Christmas Tree farm or harvesting operation
  + Hops farm or pelletizing facility
  + Flint Fresh Food Hub
  + Any of our Ag Bio Research stations
  + Natural Resources Camp
  + The Starting Block in Hart
  + Cheese plant
  + Jim Crow Museum – Ferris State University
  + Other suggestions?

There are many examples of interesting places to visit in Michigan. With your help we can create a professional development opportunity for our members. We need you to identify one of these and coordinate the tours. We will develop a committee to help with the details, including the establishment of expected learning outcomes, and promotions of the Tours Around Michigan. Please sign up.

You will truly benefit from ESP membership by getting involved with the organization. Please visit our state website or the national website to learn more about Awards, Scholarships, Professional Development, and committee involvement. The best Extension professional development conferences I have been to were affiliated with ESP at the national level. I love the “big picture” learnings I receive at these conferences, as well as connecting with Extension professionals from around the country. Even retirees can be involved with professional development.

During our workweek, we tend to get lost in the trenches of our day to day duties. We are always so busy as we move through our seasonal functions in each of our Extension roles. This year, I invite you to take some time to explore – to connect with other Extension staff, those that aren’t just in your office or work team and to visit some areas throughout our great state that you wouldn’t otherwise have a chance to see. Many of us are drawn to our profession because we value “lifelong learning.” ESP can help make this happen for you. I encourage you to get involved. The rewards are worth the investment of time.

In closing, we are the Extension Professional’s Organization, and are only as strong as our membership. I invite you to serve in some capacity. I have enjoyed serving as the ESP Michigan Chapter president this year and look forward to continuing to be actively involved with our association. I am encouraged and excited that Julia Darnton will be taking over the reigns as President. I’m sure it will be a an apple of a year, and she will “crush” it. It is with much appreciation and respect that I say Thank you to Jeannie Nichols, as she completes her year as immediate past president. Thank you for your guidance during the past few years. We could not accomplish what we do without the work of members like Steve Lovejoy, our treasurer, even in his retirement, and Beth Waitrovich, our secretary, Emily Proctor our Historian, and the most recent addition to the board, Joyce McGarry, membership chair. Bonnie Wichtner-Zoia held that position for several years, until she announced her upcoming retirement this year. Bonnie has done an exceptional job as an ESP board member and has a few remarks to make about the value of ESP.

Thank you for attending this annual meeting today to honor our colleagues and friends as we celebrate their accomplishments.

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| ***ESP Treasurer's Report for 2017 -2018 (October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018)*** | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| ***2018 Annual Meeting 10/17/2018*** | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **INCOME** | |  |  |
|  | |  |  |
| MEMBERSHIPS (renewals) | | **58** | **$ 1,160.00** |
| (new) | | **25** | **$ 500.00** |
| (life) | | **2** | **$ 200.00** |
|  | |  |  |
| **Membership Income** | |  | **$ 1,860.00** |
| $ from National ESP for attending JCEP/ESP sessions | |  | **$ 500.00** |
| INTEREST from MSUFCU | |  | **$ 71.96** |
| TRANSFER FROM SAVINGS | |  |  |
| revenue from PD conference (retirement) | |  | **$ 1,070.53** |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | |  | **$ 3,502.49** |
|  | |  |  |
| **EXPENDITURES** | |  |  |
| MCEA DUES | |  | **$ 71.00** |
| Travel Scholarships | |  | **$ 900.00** |
| AWARDS, RECOG., Supplies, meeting expenses | |  | **$ 476.96** |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | |  | **$ 1,447.96** |
| **OPERATING BALANCE** | |  | **$2,055** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **MSUFCU Account Balances 10/1/2017** | |  |  |
|  | **Spartan Savings** | | **$5.25** |
|  | **Checking** |  | **$149.06** |
|  | **Money Market** | | **$6,384.28** |
|  | **Cert. of Dep** | | **$5,065.97** |
|  | **TOTAL ASSETS** | | **$11,604.56** |

Stephen Lovejoy, Treasurer, Alpha Psi Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Phi



