



EPSILON SIGMA PHI

Michigan Alpha Psi Chapter

Alpha Psi Annual Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2023 (virtual)

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Weichel

BOARD MEETING MEMBERS ATTENDING

Fran Adelaja, Bindu Bhakta, Michelle Neff, Gwyn Shelle, Dixie Sandborn, Phil Tocco, Jennifer Weichel.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT & REFLECTION (JENNIFER WEICHEL)

Julia Darnton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the 2022 ESP Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

This past year our board met several times throughout the year to discuss the vitality of the association including member benefits and increasing membership. The board has also been discussing ways ESP can be a more inclusive group.

Professional development opportunities for the past year have included attendance at conferences such as PILD, JCEP, Extension Leadership Conference, and National ESP Conference. The dates of the National ESP Conference conflict with the 2023 MSU Extension Fall Conference however, Kara Lynch will be representing our Michigan chapter.

This year we offered a professional development opportunity at the Arab American National Museum. Bindu Bhakta and Dixie Sandborn reported on the event. There were approximately 30 staff members from across Extension that attended. Activities were offered including dancing, making mosaic tiles, a tour, and a meal. Looking forward ESP would like to offer similar opportunities in the future.

There are opportunities for ESP scholarships including four \$500 scholarships per year. Future opportunities include the 2024 PILD conference in Arlington, VA, 2024 ESP National Conference in Billings, Montana, and a future international study tour.

This year we have focused on rebuilding and re-inviting past members to reengage with ESP. At

the Fall Extension Conference breakfast meeting we will focus on membership, elections, and awards. We will also share ideas in terms of how we can increase engagement in ESP for the upcoming year.

Please invite colleagues who may be interested in joining ESP to the breakfast at FEC. For every potential member you bring to the meeting you will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card.

We have often talked about being more inclusive and based on that we are proposing an ESP bylaw change. The change is to Article III Section 1 that currently reads:

Qualifications. The membership of this organization shall consist of faculty and Academic Staff Members, who hold or have held full or part-time Extension appointments with one or more years of service as of October 1.

We are proposing:

Qualifications. Membership is open to those Extension personnel (including Administration, University and County based Professionals) and retirees who hold or have held full or part-time Extension appointments with one or more years of experience.

This change would open our association to be more inclusive and would include all staff roles within Extension. We will vote on this bylaw change at our annual membership meeting at the MSUE Fall Extension Conference but wanted to share with members ahead of the meeting. This change does align with National ESP guidelines.

In the past the board has had to tell individuals interested in joining ESP that they couldn't join based on their category of employment. This would keep us from

Membership fees will stay the same, which includes \$25 for Michigan and \$50 for National ESP. All funds are paid through National ESP and the Michigan dues are redistributed back to our chapter. Information on Life Membership can be found on the National ESP website.

ESP is a member of MCEA and activities for this past year included a face-to-face meeting with a focus on strategic planning. MCEA is looking to revive itself and inspire the associations. A new committee was formed called the Fellowship Committee. This committee will be part of the staff mixer at FEC on Tuesday, September 26 at 10am. Another MCEA group is working with the Director's Office to make sure retirees are recognized. ESP offered a very successful retiree celebration in 2022 and MCEA would like to see retirees recognized in the future. MCEA has a representative on the CANR College Advisory Committee and Jennifer Weichel will be the representative for the next two years. MCEA has made some amendments to their bylaws and the bylaws will be sent to ESP members. ESP members will need to vote on the bylaw changes

at FEC.

Please visit our website to sign-up as a member, renew your membership or for information on life membership. You will receive an email reminder to renew your membership.

Joining the board of the ESP Michigan chapter is one way to be involved in this organization across institutes. The positions that are open include President-Elect, Secretary, Historian, and Treasurer. It is an opportunity to work with other MSU Extension professionals and attend national conferences. The time commitment includes quarterly meetings, possible additional attendance at other meetings such as MCEA, planning of professional development events, awards, and the FEC ESP meeting. Historian is a position that does not take a lot of time. Secretary duties include minutes and updating the website. Please contact Bindu Bhakta if you have any questions about these positions.

There are also ESP committees such as the Membership Committee, Life Member Committee, Audit committee, and the Global Relations committee. Please consider joining a committee in the upcoming year.

HISTORIAN REPORT (PHIL TOCCO)

Several Extension professionals were remembered during the memorial service.

- Henry “Hank” Allen
- Mona Ellard
- Ann Hinsdale-Knisel
- Clifford Kahl
- Linda Rossberg
- Adabelle Shinabarger
- Harold Spink
- Michael Tate

MSU EXTENSION FALL EXTENSION CONFERENCE

The FEC ESP Breakfast Meeting will be held on September 26, 2023, at 7:30am. The meeting will include fellowship, ESP awards, and elections.

September 27, 2023 (in-person)

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Weichel

TREASURER REPORT

The Michigan ESP chapter has four different accounts which are described below.

Checking Account:

- Beginning balance on 8/1/2023 was \$5,822.39
- One deposit was made of \$150.00 for Arab American National Museum registration fees.
- One check was written for \$647.50 for the Arab American National Museum costs.
- Ending balance on 8/31/2023 was \$5,324.89

Money Market

- Beginning balance on 8/1/2023 was \$6,556.54
- \$7.19 in dividends
- Ending balance on 8/31/2023 was \$6,563.73

CD

- Beginning balance on 8/1/2023 was \$5,378.79
- \$17.72 in dividends
- Ending balance on 8/31/2023 was \$5,396.51

Spartan Saver

- \$5.25 (no transactions, no change in balance)

Account Totals: \$17,290.38

A motion was made by Julia Darnton to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

ESP BYLAW CHANGES

Article III Section 1 that currently reads:

Qualifications. The membership of this organization shall consist of faculty and Academic Staff Members, who hold or have held full or part-time Extension appointments with one or more years of service as of October 1.

We are proposing:

Qualifications. Membership is open to those Extension personnel (including Administration, University and County based Professionals) and retirees who hold or have held full or part-time Extension appointments with one or more years of experience.

Ron Bates made a motion to accept bylaw changed. Seconded.

Discussion – The current proposed language is not clear that membership is open to all MSU Extension staff.

A motion was made by Julia Darton to strike the previous amendment “*Membership is open to those Extension personnel (including Administration, University and County based Professionals) and retirees who hold or have held full or part-time Extension appointments with one or more years of experience*” and insert “*Membership is open to all Extension personnel regardless of classification and retirees who hold or have held full or part-time Extension appointments with one or more years of experience.*”

Motion carried.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Kristi Evans will serve as president in 2023 and Jennifer Weichel will move to Past-President. Gwyn Shelle will continue as Secretary, Kara Lynch will continue as Treasurer, and Phil Tocco will continue as Historian. There were no new nominations for Secretary, Treasurer and Historian from the floor.

Eric Karbowski was nominated for President-Elect by Roger Betz and Gwyn Shelle. Jennifer Weichel made a motion for a unanimous ballot. Motion passed.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

An award was presented to Sarah Eichberger for the ESP Early Service Award.

MCEA BYLAW CHANGES

MCEA bylaw changes were introduced by Brad Neumann. These changes are being proposed to all MCEA associations including changes to their description of awards, representation at meetings, quorum requirements, and language regarding the fund committee. Beth Clawson made a motion to accept MCEA bylaw revisions as recommended. Motion passed.

EXTENSION CREED

The Extension Creed was read by members.

PASSING OF GAVEL & ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer Weichel adjourned the meeting.