

Epsilon Sigma Phi
ALPHA KAPPA CHAPTER BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
10:00 a.m. Eastern Zoom Meeting

The meeting of Alpha Kappa Chapter Board was called to order by President Jeremy Teal. Introductions were made. Board members present were Jeremy Teal, Amanda Dame, Clint Hardy, Katie Alexander, Vicki Wynn, Matti Cornelius, Sally Mineer, Sara Talbott, Allison Young, Steve Musen, Amy Branstetter, Tyrone Gentry, Elizabeth Coots, Mindy McCulley, Nellie Buchanan, Rita Smart, Sheila Fawbush, Debbie Shepherd, Lynette Allen, Natasha Lucas, Erika Wood, Martha Yount, Amanda Hardy, Tony Rose, and Jennifer Bridge.

Minutes were presented by Amanda Hardy from the September 23, 2020 meeting. Minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Jennifer Bridge and seconded by Mindy McCulley and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Sarah Talbott. Balance as of 03/17/2021: \$18,580.90
Audit committee met and approved checks and balance of transactions from July 2020 to present. Lots of refunds last year due to Covid some offices didn't deposit checks until the end of year. Jeremy spoke on how to go about checks after 60 days. Jeremy asked Sarah to refer to a committee. Audit team will be her committee. They will come up with guidelines. A motion was made by Tyrone Gentry and seconded by Steve Musen to accept treasurers report. Motion passed.

President Elect Tyrone Gentry reported the national ESP organization has offered an exceptional remote experience with the JCEP Leadership Workshop this past February. The keynote speaker reminded the participants of the importance of keeping a "not-to-do-list". We are all familiar with a to-do list in various forms, but it's important to stop at times and think about the things that zap our energy or distract us and list those to maintain efficiency and focus in serving our communities. In that light, I encourage you to consider attending the virtual Public Issues Leadership Conference on April 12-14 with the theme of "Building our Future Together". The national ESP organization offers a dynamic, engaging remote experience, and I would encourage all members interested in learning more about connecting with our stakeholders to consider this upcoming conference.

Past President Sally Mineer reported on nominated committee. Steve Musen is the candidate for president elect this year. Other officers will stay in.

Professional Development Chair Katie Alexander reported registration for the ESP state meeting has been sent out via email for everyone to register on Qualtrics. As of today, we have 53 registered, 6 new, 2 lifetime. The registration for the in-service is in KERS. Dr. Jones has secured two speakers from Utah State University for the in-service.

Scholarship, Grants and Recognition Chair Mindy McCulley reported that we are way down on awards this year. Reached out to several people to help get out information on awards. Smaller awards program this year. We will have a scholarship to award this year.

Marketing Chair Amanda Dame reported New Marketing logo for our Kentucky Chapter is available on the National ESP website (logo below). <https://espnational.org/Branding-&-Logos>. Due to the State Meeting being virtual there will not be any marketing materials purchased for membership. Chapter website- Chapters now have the option to have a chapter website on the national site. There is a request form online if our chapter is interested.

Resource Development Chair Debbie Shepherd reported that an online silent auction was looked at and it was decided to wait until we can meet in person.

Retirees Chair Rita Smart reported there will not be a retiree's award winner this year. We had one excellent entry but the individual was not a life member. I suggest we look at the award form and emphasize the life member aspect. Other suggestions include listing life members on the web site as well as encouraging members to pay life member dues when they retire. This year's scholarship winner is Jaclyn Little a sophomore from Danville, KY who is majoring in Hospitality Management and Tourism. We encourage members to continue to donate to the scholarship fund.

Membership Recruitment Chair Lynnette Allen reported 210 members and 19 new members and 55 lifetime members on the website. The membership committee we have been going by this. According to Sara she has only received 91 members, 1 new lifetime and 10 new members. She will continue to work on this.

Public Issues Chair Paula Jerrell could not attend so Jeremy gave a report. He Encouraged everyone to attend this year's PILD Conference. The conference will be April 12-14 and is themed, Building our Future Together. Early Bird registration ends April 2nd and it \$100, cost is \$150 April 3-9, and Late registration is on April 10-12 for \$200.

Chapter Relations Chair Clint Hardy reported about email that was sent out on deaths. Some of those are not Lifetime Members. He is going to look back at records and see which are lifetime and are not. He will get the data base cleaned up. Shared the updating historian report. His staff assistant cleaned it all up. It is already outdated. Next time we return in person he will get people to look it over and edit it.

Global Relations Chair Steve Musen reported the joint International Grassland Congress/International Rangeland Congress (IGC/IRC) has been rescheduled for October 23rd-29th in Nairobi Kenya. I have received an \$1,800 travel grant from the American Forage and Grassland Council to attend the joint IGC/IRC and present a poster. U.K. is not yet approving international travel requests, so it is unclear if I will be able to attend.

Newsletter Chair report by Nellie Buchanan that there will be a due day by April 10 for newsletter. Please send reports to her.

Reports from Area Chair:

Administration Natasha Lucas reported since the New Year, the administrative team has been very busy transitioning into the new administrative structure. With COVID, we increased our communications with everyone across the state through various ways such as Dr. Stephenson's Monday Memo, messaging from your Area Extension Director and have also tried to keep the Extension District Board and other leaders involved through a monthly newsletter. Plans are in place to continue this communication post COVID. We are so excited about the upcoming State Extension Conference in December. We look forward to seeing everyone from across the state. We are also very excited about the first cohort of agents that are participating in the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Certificate Program. As a member of the ESP National Committee for Resource Development and Management, we have been discussing celebration plans for reaching the \$500,000 goal for the ESP Development Fund which directly goes back to the membership in the form of scholarships, stipends for committee members, life members, presenters, and award winners for attending the national conference. We hope to celebrate this accomplishment in Savannah, Georgia since we did not get to do so last year due to the virtual conference format. We also recently switched to QuickBooks Online for all of our finances. Special thanks to Greg & Becky Price for all they have done for National ESP serving as our Directors. They plan to stay on for a little while longer to successfully transition to new leadership when hired.

Bluegrass Ray Tackett could not attend.

Fort Harrod Elizabeth Coots reported still only 1 agent vacancy in the area – Anderson County FCS Agent. Personal updates: Alethea Bruzek, formerly Alethea Price, Boyle County FCS Agent, was married on October 10.

Green River Lisa Hagman is not present, so Amanda Hardy gave report. FCS agents are still down 5 agents in the area. McLean Co posted position for FCS and closed and there were not viable candidates. It has reposted. Lindsey Dunn 4-H Agent in Daviess Co. had a baby before the end of the year. Annette Buckman was the staff assistant and book keeper in Union Co and now is the 4-H agent.

Kentucky State University Dr. Allison Young reported that the Attwood Building has been completed. All campus based Ag research, teaching and extension faculty are transferring to the building. Dr. Bankston retired in Summer 2020 after 34 years of service. Dr. Allison Young has been named as Program Leader for FCS. We are now accepting applications for a Consumer Economics specialist position. The position is listed on the KSU employment website and is also being listed in the Journal of Extension. There is one position for a FCS Agent that is open in Fayette County, as Carla Jordan has resigned. Dr. Travella Free has been named as Program Leader for 4-H at KSU. Dr. Free is also working as one of the Co-Chairs for State Extension Conference that is scheduled to take place in December. We had two KSU extension professionals, Sherri Crabtree and Jeremy Sandifer, to complete the 1890 Extension Leadership Academy program that started in August 2020 and was completed in mid-February 2021. Dr. Young served as their Coach and it included participants from all 19 1890 institutions. March 8th was the first KSU Women in Ag Celebration, which had participants from many states and even a participant from Ireland. 500 pounds of produce from the KSU Benson Farm were

donated to the Healthy Food Initiative. In terms of addressing Covid-19 at KSU, the university has determined that faculty and staff can work at 50% capacity in our various offices. The week of March 8-12, 2021, there was a drive through clinic provided for KSU faculty and staff for Covid-19 vaccinations.

Lake Cumberland Tony Rose reported there is a new Agricultural Agent in Casey County-Kelsay Woodrum and Taylor County is advertising for 4-H Agent Position.

Licking River Nellie Buchanan reported now split into 3 different districts C-2 Montgomery Co AED Lisa Adams; E-5 Morgan AED Ty Back, E-7 Bath, Rowan, Menifee AED Raven Ford E-8 Bracken Robertson, Fleming, Lewis, Mason. Natasha Lucas (transitioned to Central) from District I to Central Regional Congratulations to Ty Back AED D-5 and D-6, Raven Ford AED 7 & 8 (1/1/21) from Rowan 4-H. December 19 Nola Vive Flynn born to Nicole Gwishiri congratulations Nicole & John on this second daughter! Jan 1, 2021 Donna Fryman retired from KY Cooperative Extension in Fleming County with 39 years of service. 3/19/21 Amanda (Mandi) Broderick Lewis Co. FCS resigns. Current agent vacancies: Fleming Co. FCS, Lewis Co. FCS, Rowan Co. 4-H and Rowan Co. ANR posting closed

Lincoln Trail Jennifer Bridge reported Vacancies in Larue and Marion FCS, Washington ANR and Hardin 4-H. Bonnie Jolly Hardin 4-H retired in November and her husband passed away unexpectedly in January. Dayna Fentress, Hardin FCS gave birth to a baby girl, Sutton Elizabeth and Natalie Taul, Grayson FCS is due within the month. Misty Wilmoth is finishing up her E. ed after completing a sabbatical.

Louisville Shelia Fawbush reported The Louisville Area has two FCS vacancies in Oldham and Henry Counties. Bullitt County has an Ag vacancy.

Mammoth Cave Amy Branstetter is new to the committee. She reported that Barren County Horticulture Agent is open, Hart County needs an ANR Agent, Monroe County Needs FCS Agent, Simpson County Christy Ramey FCS Agent retired and they need an FCS Agent and Warren County needs a support staff.

Northern Kentucky Kathy Byrnes sent report. Here is my report from N. KY: we are happy to welcome Mike Meyer as our new area director, vacancies: 4-H in Boone and Grant counties, FCS in Owen and Horticulture in Kenton County.

Northeast Lyndall Harned was not present.

Pennyrile Erika Wood reported Hopkins ANR position has posted and will hopefully be filled soon. Hopkins FCS, Livingston FCS, Muhlenberg FCS, Lyon 4-H are all vacant.

Purchase Vicki Wynn reported The Purchase Area is enjoying working with our new W1-W2 Area Extension Director, Robert Tashjian. Current vacancies include ANR-2, FCS-2, and 4-H-3.

Quicksand Crystal Osborne was not present

Specialists Martha Yount reported the Specialist Transition Team that was formed during the Extension Administration update process has decided to continue meeting as a group. This multi-disciplinary Extension Specialist group will provide an opportunity for better communication among specialists in various departments.

Wilderness Trail Matti Cornelius reported We have two Area Extension Directors from Wilderness Trail Area: Jeffrey Casada (East 1 and 2) Judith O'Bryan (East 3 and 4) Our vacancies are: 4H agents- Rockcastle, Whitley, Laurel, FCS agents- Jackson, Knox, Laurel (posted- closes 3/17), ANR agents- Clay (posted and closed), Bell

Unfinished Business

ESP Professional Development Fund reported by Mindy McCulley and committee. Met during Covid and we have funds for staff and are not the TR Bryant Scholarship. TR Bryant funds that can be available for professional development. Mindy presented ESP Professional Development Scholarship guidelines. Based on what we have budgeted and available from endowment there is about \$6000 a year. Allocated \$1000 for support staff to be members of Chi Sigma and \$3000 allocated for officer training. Any professional meeting for ESP. \$2000 to be used for ESP meetings. It was decided that a qualitative survey would be put together for applications. The committee will review applications on a monthly basis. Discussions was made. A motion was made by all and motion passed.

ESP Leads report by Jennifer Bridge reported ESP Leads has been extended and will conclude in December at the state extension council meeting. Participants are meeting monthly to present projects as they are completed and will have a poster session at the state meeting as well. Amanda Dame has been leading the group in a book discussion on Dare to Lead by Brene Brown. Paperwork was submitted and reimbursed for the Rita T. Wood grant from national ESP. She recommended that ESP Leads go under reports and out of business. It would be a policy change. Jennifer made motion to add ESP Leads as a committee Elizabeth Coots second. Motion Carried.

New Business

2021 Annual Meeting/In-Service Training reported by Katie Alexander reported registration is going well. Members as of this morning 53-member, 6 new lifetime and 2 lifetime. Speakers are \$1000 for speakers but it will be free.

Reminders 2021 National ESP Meeting October 25-28 in Savannah, GA. 2022 National ESP Meeting September 26-29 in Branson, MO.

Mindy McCulley made a motion to adjourn and Nellie Buchanan seconded.

Minutes by: Secretary Amanda Hardy