

Alpha Rho Chapter Epsilon Sigma Phi

Special Membership Meeting Zoom Call Meeting

Tuesday, August 14, 9:30 a.m.

The special meeting of the Alpha Rho Chapter of ESP was called to order on Tuesday, August 14 at 9:30 a.m. by Chapter President, John Forshee via Zoom Conference.

Secretary Linda Beech was not available for the meeting due to a prior commitment but as no business was to be transacted at the meeting President John Forshee volunteered to just write up some quick minutes for posting to the website.

President Forshee and Historian Doug Jardine gave a brief history of membership options in Kansas and changes that had happened in membership at the National Level that raised the awareness and the need for Kansas to consider revising the membership options.

Membership and Recruitment Committee Chair, Stacey Warner, reviewed the current constitution and bylaws as relating to membership and then outlined the proposed changes. (See attached)

The floor was then opened for questions. After a brief discussion, question, and answer session, President Forshee reviewed the voting process that would happen on-line via a Qualtrics Survey. A link with a recording of the meeting along with a link to the Qualtrics Voting Survey would be sent to all ESP membership via email later in the morning on August 14 by President Forshee.

As the recording did not get started at the beginning of the meeting, Forshee thanked the membership for attending the Zoom meeting, invited anyone with questions to contact himself, Stacey Warner, or Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair, Jill Martinson.

Forshee stayed on the call and again gave a brief overview of the history and rationale for the proposal and why the meeting was held via Zoom prior to Annual Conference. The Zoom Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

John Forshee,

Alpha Rho ESP President

**Proposal for Change to Constitution and By-laws of Alpha Rho – ESP Chapter
Submitted by Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee
07/10/2018**

The current Constitution reads:

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. MEMBER. An extension professional who is currently employed by or retired from an entity of the Cooperative Extension System. Members continue to provide leadership and excellence in extension programming throughout their career and during retirement.

Section 2. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP. The membership of the Alpha Rho Chapter shall be:

(a) Annual members. Extension professionals who have been employed three years or more as of January 1 or who have retired, and have paid their annual dues.

(b) Life members. Extension professionals who have retired and have paid the lifetime membership fee which is five times the annual dues.

(c) Associate members. Extension professionals who have been employed less than three years as of January 1 who have paid their annual dues.

Section 3. MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY. The Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee shall consider all matters relating to membership eligibility.

The Alpha Rho Chapter Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee is proposing the following constitutional change:

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. No change

Section 2. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP. The membership of the Alpha Rho Chapter shall be:

(a) Annual members. Extension professionals who are actively employed or who have retired and have paid their annual dues. In their initial year of membership, new members would pay the national dues plus initiation fee only and not the chapter dues.

(b) Life members. Extension professionals who have retired and have paid the lifetime membership fee which is five times the annual dues.

(The reference to associate membership would be eliminated).

Section 3. No change

The current By-laws read:

Article VII FINANCING

Section 1. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES.

- (a) Each annual or associate member of Alpha Rho Chapter shall pay annual membership dues set by a vote of the membership.
 - (b) Life membership is five times the annual dues, paid once.
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The Alpha Rho Chapter Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee is proposing the following by-laws change:

Article VII FINANCING

Section 1. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES.

- (a) Each annual ~~or associate~~ member of ~~the~~ Alpha Rho Chapter shall pay annual membership dues set by a vote of the membership.
- (c) Life membership is five times the annual dues, paid once.

Summary:

These proposed changes would eliminate the associate member category but maintain a reduced membership fee for the initial year of membership.

Background:

In the past, the national Epsilon Sigma Phi organization had a ten year requirement for membership. At some point that was lowered to five years and then later changed to completely eliminate the years of employment requirement for membership.

During the national transition, the Kansas – Alpha Rho Chapter created an “associate member” category with a reduced dues rate for three years to encourage new members to join. We are now the only chapter with an associate member category.

(Annual members currently pay \$70 with \$40 going to national and \$30 to the chapter. Associate members currently pay \$20 to the chapter only).

Pros of maintaining the current associate membership category:

New professionals are more likely to join and to continue paying dues if there is a reduced membership fee. New professionals may be more likely to join the professional association that most closely aligns with their subject matter and ESP might be a second choice.

Cons of maintaining the current associate membership category:

Alpha Rho chapter associate members are not affiliated with the national organization so aren't eligible for recognition or grants. They don't receive communications from the national office. They aren't eligible for the member registration fee for national conference (although the national office is waiving that for this year since we are hosting).

Other related information:

Within the past few years, the national organization has transitioned to an on-line membership system. Since Kansas is the only state with an associate category there have been challenges with our associate membership category and the on-line system.

Within the past year K-State Research and Extension has a new policy that allows for payment of professional association dues for one organization from departmental/local/appropriated funds (rather than personal funds as in the past). So belonging to more than one professional association may be more feasible than in the past.

First time members would be encourage to pay by check, rather than through the on-line membership system to help alleviate issues with the initial year reduced dues.

7/10/2018