

President's Message – December 15, 2017

The new year for our chapter is well underway with many exciting things in store for the 2017-18 program year. But before we look forward, allow me to look backward for just one moment.

First of all, thanks so much to Nadine Sigle, your current past-president, for a great year of leadership as your Alpha Rho President in 2016-17. Nadine is a great role model for all of us, on a personal level in the way she conducts her life, and on a professional level with her dedication to all we do in Extension. Thanks also to the entire council for the hard work in making the year successful.

It was exciting to be on hand at the ESP National Meeting in Wilmington, NC as Ray Bartholomew was recognized as a "Friend of Extension." Ray supports Extension in so many ways but specifically he has spent countless hours educating our youth and volunteers in the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. Thank you Ray for all you do!

Finally, we took a few minutes at Annual Conference to recognize those ESP members who have passed on. As the memorials were read, it was humbling to consider that it is our responsibility to continue the work they started and to live up to the legacy they leave behind. May we strive each day to honor those who have gone before us!

As we look forward there are a couple of exciting things happening. First of all, Rachael Boyle had a great article in the December 12, 2017 Tuesday Letter concerning the transition from Kansas Extension Agent Association (KEAA) to Kansas Joint Council of Extension Professionals (KS JCEP). This represents a new beginning as ESP will now become a partner organization to KS JCEP, where we were not previously part of KEAA. As ESP President, I will serve as a KS JCEP vice-president, along with the presidents of the other agent associations. In addition, we will be selecting two additional ESP members to serve on the KS JCEP Board of Directors. As ESP members, you will automatically become members of KS JCEP. This will be a new opportunity for those ESP members that are in specialist and administrative roles where previously KEAA was limited to Extension Agents only. KS JCEP is currently working on what the dues structure will be and once that is determined we will make our dues adjustment accordingly to reflect that membership. There are standing committees and all members will have the opportunity to serve and get involved. The committees are as follows: Association Awareness/Membership Recruitment, Finance, Marketing and Outreach, Professional Development, and Employee Relations.

Secondly, our planning committee continues to work diligently to plan for the 2018 ESP National Meeting to be held October 1-4, 2018 in Manhattan, Kansas. Stacey Warner and Jennifer Wilson are heading up our planning team. There are a number of committees and there will be countless ways to volunteer as we host the event. Check out the committee options and updates on our website at:[http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/esp-alpha\\_rho/documents/national\\_meeting/2018-National-Meeting.html](http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/esp-alpha_rho/documents/national_meeting/2018-National-Meeting.html)

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your president during this exciting year and I wish you all the best in 2018.

Respectfully serving you,  
John Forshee