

## Monthly President's Message

February 2018

Dear Alpha Rho Chapter Members

It is hard to believe that January 2018 is behind us and our Extension programming year is already 1/3 gone!

The March 1, 2018 deadline is quickly approaching for the award winners that were recognized at the 2017 KSRE Annual Conference to submit their applications for national recognition. Liz Brunscheen-Cartagena is our Chapter Recognition Committee chair and if you are eligible, she has contacted you and submitted your name to national. It is now up to you to go on-line and complete the national application. Please contact Liz at the K-State Research and Extension, Sedgwick County Extension Education Center with any questions that you might have.

The Alpha Rho Chapter will host the ESP National Meeting October 1-4, 2018 in Manhattan. As a host chapter, we would love to have 100% of our chapter membership attending. For many, we know the local unit or department budget might not allow for that travel and so our planning committee, headed up by Stacey Warner and Jennifer Wilson, submitted a grant application to the ESP Kansas Extension Endowment Fund to help with National Meeting expenses through scholarships. I have included the scholarship information details below and they can be found as well our website at: <http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/esp-alpharho/> under the National Meeting tab.

The Kansas Extension Endowment Fund has awarded \$10,000 to the Alpha Rho Chapter for registration scholarships for members to attend the 2018 National Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference to be held in Manhattan October 1-4. All chapter members, including life members, are encouraged to apply for the scholarships.

**Scholarships:** will be awarded in the following amounts:

- \*Full amount of early-bird registration for first time national conference attendees.
- \*Half of early-bird registration for those who have attended a national conference previously.

**Preference:** Scholarships will be awarded with the following preference.

- \*First time conference attendees.
- \*Those for whom receipt of the scholarship would financially be a determining factor for attendance.
- \*Involvement in the Alpha Rho Chapter.

**Application Process:** To apply, outline the following in a pdf document and send to: [jrwilson@ksu.edu](mailto:jrwilson@ksu.edu) by February 28.

- \*Name, email address
- \*Alpha Rho Chapter involvement: officer, committee member, endowment grant recipient, recognition recipient, etc.
- \*A paragraph outlining reasons desiring to attend the conference.
- \*A statement about previous national conference attendance.
- \*A statement about whether or not receipt of this scholarship would be a determining factor in attendance at the conference.

**Timeline:** The application deadline is February 28. Awardees will be announced about March 20

Finally, our chapter has set the following goals for the year. We ask that our committee chairs look these goals over and adopt them as relevant to your committee and help us continue the excellence of the Alpha Rho Chapter!

Goals for 2017-18:

- Reach out to younger colleagues to get involved in ESP- explore how we can be relevant to younger colleagues and meet their needs.
- Review Associate membership in light of new national guidelines for immediate eligibility.
- Reach out to increase membership among specialists-
- ESP Area Directors assign ESP mentors for new colleagues
- Kansas award applicants in all recognition categories
- Professionalism Committee offer professional development opportunities for members

Thanks for all you do to help make the Alpha Rho Chapter one of the strongest ESP Chapters in the nation! Keep up the good work.

John J. Forshee  
President, Alpha Rho Chapter