



CHI EPSILON SIGMA

ALPHA CHAPTER

Our Mission

The purpose of this fraternity shall be to maintain the standards and ideals, uphold the morale, prestige and respect of Ohio State University Extension support staff, to develop an effective working relationship and a spirit of fraternal fellowship among the present and emeriti employees of Ohio State University Extension, and to encourage professionalism within Extension.

Summer 2009

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President's Article

Dear CES Friends:

"Jumping Jiminy Crickets"! Camps, State Fair, last of summer vacations, and everyone going back to school! Shortly, the Montgomery County Fair will begin.

All of the above are signs that summer is at an end. Soon we will have the beautiful fall with bright orange, brown, and gold leaves in the trees with accompanying cool winds. I am glad, though, that snow is a few months away. I love snow to look at, just not to deal with. Nevertheless, all too soon it arrives. Not unlike responsibilities, we have volunteered to do.

Everything we do is voluntary in one way or another. How we handle it is what matters most. We can decide to barrel forward with no thought to the outcome. Or, we can move forward with a well thought out plan and really enjoy ourselves in the process. And that is where I am going. Last week we had the first all staff Miami Valley EERA meeting. It was a big success. I was glad Chris asked me to participate. I, in turn, asked Mary Alice Shupp to join me. We did a PowerPoint presentation on "Office Support and Management" for approximately 80 staff. When I was asked to do this, I already had a full schedule and considered refusing. Mostly because I am nervous speaking in front of a large group. I am not a public speaker, but once I began the presentation and then going over it with Mary Alice, I enjoyed it. So, as *Franklin D. Roosevelt* said, "The Only Thing We Have to Fear Is Fear Itself", at his first Inaugural Address, it is the same with all the new changes in Extension. You are constantly given the chance to spread your wings and excel at what you do best and what you like to do most.

As CES President, along with our Vice President, Linda Newman, I have the opportunity to represent CES by attending the Association Leaders Meetings with leadership from other Extension professional organizations. We meet with Dr. Keith Smith on issues and concerns facing staff. Please feel free to contact Linda Newman or myself with any matter that you as support staff feel we should bring to the meeting on Wednesday, September 9. We would appreciate hearing from you!

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Chi Epsilon Sigma has a lot to be proud of as an organization, as well as each individual member. What a great group of professional, compassionate, hard-working individuals! A reminder, our membership drive is in full swing and I trust that each of you has already renewed your membership. If not, please submit your renewal to Lee Ann Johnson, Membership Secretary by August 31. The membership forms are located on our web site at <http://ces.ag.ohio-state.edu/membership>. In addition, I encourage you to invite other support staff in your office to join if they are not already a member. Let them know about the many benefits of being a member. (One of them is joining using scholarship dollars.) Also, when you send in your membership form, please attach the Secret Friend form. It is a wonderful opportunity to make someone's day during the year. I have always had a Secret Friend and it is so nice to occasionally get a card with a little something in it brightening up my day.

CES has many opportunities coming available at this time. Some of them are Professional Development monies, Newsletter/Brochure Contest, and Scholarships. Please consider signing up to serve on the board for a chance to become an officer. As an officer, you will have the opportunity to represent our organization of skilled, compassionate, friendly individuals who know how to get the job done for Extension and help provide a voice to administration. Make our and your voice heard.

Do not forget to mark December 16 and 17 on your calendar for Annual Conference to connect with your co-workers, and meet other staff you have not had the opportunity to meet! More details will follow as soon as the planning committee releases them!

Have a great Labor Day Holiday, and remember, there are many ways of making a positive difference, "It's the little things in life that mean a lot".

Kathy Mohler

President, Chi Epsilon Sigma

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Membership Drive

The annual CES membership drive began Monday, August 3. Chi Epsilon Sigma is Extension's professional organization for support staff. Membership is open to all support staff who have at least a 45 percent appointment with Extension.

Annual CES membership dues are \$15. Extension administration reaffirms that dues may be paid from county/department budgets with supervisor approval. To encourage staff to join who may not be able to because of budget constraints, six membership scholarships will be available. You can request an application by checking the appropriate box on the membership form. Membership information and the application are located at <http://ces.ag.ohio-state.edu/membership>

This year's CES Annual Meeting will include a breakfast the morning of Thursday, December 17 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus, in partnership with the All Extension Conference. The theme of this year's conference is "A New EERA in Extension" and will be held on December 16 and 17. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. A \$100 scholarship will be awarded to a CES member to assist with expenses to attend the Annual Meeting and Conference. Criteria will be based on restricted financial funding, and an application will be sent if you check the box on the membership form.

Now is the time to consider membership in CES - the Extension support staff professional organization. Experience the many benefits of CES membership.

What They're Doing Now

Mobile Food Pantry

(by JoAnn Covelli - Support Staff Emeriti, Shelby County)

Since my retirement from the Shelby County Extension Office in March, I am now the coordinator/volunteer of the Shelby County Agape Rural Mobile Food Pantry. We cover the county each Saturday and give free groceries. We are the first mobile food pantry in the state, and as far as we know, in the nation, to have this innovative program.

Several years ago I wanted to provide groceries into the rural areas and finally Agape received a \$40,000 grant to purchase a 28 foot mobile unit designed to our specifications and a 2008 heavy duty 10 passenger van to pull the unit. There is only one paid employee. The rest of us are volunteers. We partner with churches in the 12 communities and carry a five days supply of food for 75 families each Saturday. We visit three rural communities each Saturday for two hours each.

We receive so many positive comments. Prayers are being answered.

I just received my first grant for \$500 from Quaker Oats. I had taken a grant writing class earlier this year at OSU.

Our group is willing to help begin a program in other areas under the auspices of our director, Pastor John L. Geissler, Ph.D.

Vice-President's Article

It is hard to believe that autumn will be here in less than a month. Many exciting things are happening in Extension and opportunities await us.

As a CES member if you are planning on continuing your education in some nature please sign up for one of the two Development Awards. These awards are for CES members who plan to attend a professional improvement program to enhance their role within the Ohio State University. Each of the Development Awards is \$200 each and winners will be announced at Annual Conference. Please plan to apply for this wonderful opportunity.

The second opportunity that awaits you as a CES member is to be part of the CES board. The board meets 4 times a year and helps in the planning of Annual Conference. This year the following positions need to be filled: Vice President, Secretary/Treasure, Membership Secretary, Campus Director, Emeriti Director, North Central Regional Director (Serves Crawford, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Pickaway, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca and Wyandot Counties.), South East Regional Director (Serves Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Tuscarawas, and Washington Counties), and West Regional Director (Serves Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams and Wood Counties). If you would be interested in running for one of these positions please let me know at newman.221@cfaes.osu.edu.

Our third opportunity as Support Staff is to attend Annual Conference. This year the Support Staff Conference is being combined with Annual Conference. "A New EERA in Extension", will be held December 16 & 17 in Columbus. Please make plans to attend both days. If for financial reasons you may not be able to attend there are scholarship opportunities available through CES.

Opportunities are all around us; it is our time to take advantage of our opportunities.

Linda Newman

Vice-President

CES Listserve Reminder & Clarification

Two CES listservs are available for use by our membership. To send a message to the CES Board simply use cesboard@ag.ohio-state.edu and to send a message to the entire membership send to cesmembers@ag.ohio-state.edu. Any member can send messages to either of these listservs.

Upcoming Award Information

I hope that everyone is having a great summer. If your fair is over I hope you are recuperating and if you still have to go through fair I hope it goes smoothly. It is hard to believe that it is time once again to begin the application and nomination process for the Dorothy Rex Inspiration Award (send your nominations directly to Kathy Gamble; no application form is needed) and the CES Newsletter/Brochure/Website Award (application and information is on CES website). All applications and nominations are due October 1st this year since our annual meeting is later in the year.

Now is the time to be thinking about your entry into the contest and who has been an inspiration to you. Please check out the CES webpage for all of the contest information.

Mary Alice Shupp, Historian

Annual Conference - Come one, Come all!

By: Carolyn Hall

As I am sure you have heard Annual Conference will include everyone in Extension. What a great opportunity we have to grow professionally and personally with our friends and colleagues. The details are.....

December 16-17, 2009

Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center

Theme: A New EERA in Extension

CES Annual Meeting/Breakfast will be December 17

Please make plans to attend! This is a conference for everyone! The planning committee is working hard on lining up a full, fun and educational agenda – a similar look to Support Staff Conference Agendas in recent years – i.e. breakout sessions, Admin update, keynote speaker, CES Breakfast, award recognition, etc. It will be worth your time!

Extension Support Staff Excellence Award

You will soon receive information about applying for the Extension Support Staff Excellence Award. Be thinking of someone you would like to nominate. You will receive a notice soon via e-mail regarding the steps for submitting a nomination. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Ann Johnson, Membership Secretary at johnson.82@cfaes.osu.edu

Secret Friend

What a great time after the stresses of county fairs, summer camps, as well as many other of life's pressures to receive that much needed encouragement from our Secret Friends. Please don't forget to complete your Secret Friend form when sending in your CES membership form. Having a Secret Friend throughout the year can be such a joy and encouragement!



Personal Glimpse

By Jenny Lindimore, SE Regional Director

September 1st completes my 21st year at OSUE – Morgan County. Wow how time flies! During my tenure, I've been the lone support staff to 8 Educators/Agents, 3 Extension Associates, and 5 Program Assistants. I've developed great friendships with a few of these folks along the way. I thoroughly enjoy my work because no two days are ever the same in Extension. Where else can you identify bugs & weeds, talk cooking & canning, and watch little kids develop into young adults all in the same day?

At home, I'm the mother to 3 girls (22, 19, 14) and wife of 23 years to Todd. We live in his grandparents' 160+ yr.-old farmhouse where we help with the farming and spend lots of our free time working and playing outdoors.

Joining CES and serving on the board has allowed me to meet and work with some great gals from all over the state while gaining leadership and professionalism. Thank you for allowing me to serve as SE Regional Director. I urge all of you to get more involved in CES!



Condolences

Our sympathies are extended to Kathy Mohler and her family in the passing of her 101 year old grandmother, Helen (Stang) Trame.

Staff Advisory Council Update

By Teresa Funk

Staff Appreciation and Professional Development ~ 2009 Employee Appreciation Week: The CFAES Staff Advisory Council brought lots of activity throughout CFAES the week of August 17 – 21 for Employee Appreciation. A thank you and a “note grabber” with the CFAES SAC logo was sent to all Extension staff in outlying offices; an appreciation lunch was held on both the Columbus and Wooster campuses; and an electronic thank you was sent to every CFAES employee from SAC.

Professional Development

Planning continues for the CFAES SAC to offer Professional Development scholarships to CFAES staff. More details will be released in the coming months.

Anniversary Display: A display was created of all CFAES employees anniversaries, starting with 5 years and going up in 5-year increments to 45 or more years. CFAES has a total of twelve employees with 45 or more years of service! Congratulations to everyone on achieving these anniversary milestones and know that your service and dedication are very much appreciated! Keep your eye out at major CFAES functions for this display!

Extension Annual Conference Break Sponsorship: Plans are underway to once again sponsor a break at the Extension Annual Conference, December 16 - 17 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus. With this year's conference combining two conferences into one, (what was formerly know as the Extension & CFAES Support Staff Conference and the Extension Annual Conference), CFAES SAC will have a larger presence. Look for our display during the conference!

CFAES Glossary: A CFAES Glossary was created and posted to the SAC Web site to offer assistance to anyone needing to find out what an acronym means, a definition of a term related to CFAES, and a host of other items. Check it out at <http://sac.ag.ohio-state.edu/Glossary.doc/view> and if you have any suggestions for items to be added, let me know.

Staff Recognition Awards - Do you know an employee who goes that extra mile?: Three new recognition awards were created and announced in addition to the Shirley Brooks-Jones Award. Nominations are being accepted through August 31st for the 2009 Shirley Brooks-Jones Award along with the new Above and Beyond Awards.

The Shirley Brooks-Jones Award, which is named after Shirley Brooks-Jones who served the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences as a staff member for 35 years. Her employment commenced in 1954 with a secretarial position and ended with her retirement in 1989 from her position as Assistant to the Vice President for Agricultural Administration. Shirley is recognized as the epitome of excellence for her active involvement and outstanding service during her tenure. She is a role model for countless staff, faculty and students, and her name brings enormous prestige to this award.

The Above and Beyond awards are new for the 2009 year and their purpose is to recognize significant accomplishments in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. The awards will be presented to three staff members for 1) service to the University/College, 2) leadership and innovation, and 3) exceptional accomplishments and positive behaviors.

These awards have a one-time cash award. Please visit the Staff Advisory Council's website at <http://sac.ag.ohio-state.edu/> for award criteria and nomination forms.

Questions can be directed to Trina Beebe at beebe.25@osu.edu or 614-688-4659.

These awards are open to all non-faculty CFAES employees.

Criteria and forms are available at the Staff Recognition Link on the website. <http://sac.ag.ohio-state.edu/staff-recognition>

By August 31, 2009 submit nominations to:

Trina Beebe, 100 Agricultural Administration Building, 2120 Fyffe Road, Columbus, OH 43210

CFAES SAC Goals for next year: Working on a year of service recognition program for next year (~ \$500); Working on a quarterly newsletter for staff for next year; Working on a Staff Mentoring program; Working on a Professional Development program (i.e., support for travel expenses for staff to participate in professional development opportunities, ~ \$2000); Continuation of new items from this year; Re-vamp Day with the Dean – tentatively “On the Road with CFAES”.

The Annual Hidden Benefits Fair: The 12th Annual Hidden Benefits Fair will take place on Wednesday, December 7th, from 11:00 to 2:00 at the French Field House. This event is brought to you by the University Staff Advisory Council and it showcases many services available to OSU faculty and staff. Admission is free and parking is provided at the French Field House. There are door prizes, plenty of free items and lots of information. Some booths offer goods for sale or at a discounted price including hot dogs and soda. Check on-line at [Hidden Benefits Fair, December 2, 2009, Nationwide 4-H building](http://www.osu.edu/hiddenbenefitsfair) for more details closer to the end of November!

Rally For Wellness: The University Staff Advisory Committee has joined forces with the Wellness Program to combine the annual Wellness Fair in September with the USAC-sponsored pep rally to form the Rally for Wellness! USAC is proud to support our University's move towards a healthier staff and workplace. Please come out and 'rally' for our Buckeyes, our staff and most importantly – our health.

The 2009 Rally For Wellness will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Check on-line at <http://usac.osu.edu/events/RallyForWellness.php> for more information.

In closing, it is a pleasure to represent CES members as part of Staff Advisory Council and as I prepare to step into the role of CFAES SAC Chair for 2009 – 2020, I encourage you to please communicate with me any concerns, ideas, issues, etc. that you would like for me to bring before the council. I welcome you to contact me either by phone or e-mail to discuss any ideas or issues you might have. I can be reached at funk.67@osu.edu or 614-292-4077.

Teresa Funk, SAC Director