



CHI EPSILON SIGMA GAMMA CHAPTER FALL 2025

A Message from our President

Hello CHIES Members,

Wow—summer truly flew by, and here we are preparing for fall once again! I hope each of you found time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the season in your own way. It was such a blessing to see so many of you at our conference in Louisville this past April. I left feeling incredibly encouraged and uplifted, and I hope you did too. Our office has already begun applying many of the ideas and insights we gained—what a joy to see them in action!

I continue to feel deeply saddened by the departure of our NEP colleagues across the state. For those of you navigating transitions, please know that you are not alone. We are here to support you, and you will be truly missed. Our office felt the weight of this change when our own NEP Assistant had her final day—it was an emotional moment for all of us. If your office is planning a farewell reception, I'd be happy to help share the invitation with the CHIES membership.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that our **2026 Conference will be held in Paducah from April 29 to May 1**. Planning is already underway, and it's shaping up to be another fantastic event! One new feature we're introducing is **Member-led breakout sessions**. If you or someone you know is interested in leading a session, stay tuned—more details will be shared soon. Please note that space and time slots will be limited.

I also hope to see many of you at the newly re-named **STARS Staff Appreciation Day** on September 19 at the Kroger Field Concourse. Be sure to stop by the CHIES table to say hello and enter to win one of two gift cards!

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any board member with questions, ideas, or needs. We're here to support you—not just during conference season, but all year long.

Wishing you a fall filled with fun, pumpkin spice, and everything nice!

Warmly,

Katie Sandlin

President, Chi Epsilon Sigma

THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
SUPPORT STAFF FRATERNITY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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SHIRT ORDERS

Most members should have received their shirts by now. West 5-6 AED, Amanda Hardy, and Natasha Lucas, Central RED, helped distribute the shirts throughout the state.

If you have not received yours yet, please contact your AED/RED.

CONFERENCE PLANNING

Exciting things ahead! The Chi Epsilon Sigma Board kicked off planning for the 2026 conference during our August meeting. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who completed the post-conference survey—your insights were invaluable. After reviewing your feedback, we're shaking things up for next year, and we can't wait to share what's coming. Stay tuned for updates!

Save the Dates!

APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2026



PADUCAH, KY

CHI EPSILON SIGMA

ANNUAL

CONFERENCE

Member News

Andrew Modica of Whitley County placed 2nd in the NIBROC2 Miler. This impressive finish came after months of dedicated training since participating in the 5K Turkey Trot last November. Andrew said, "The progress has been undeniable - every early morning run, every tough workout, and every step taken with purpose led to this moment. Shaving time, gaining confidence, and showing real grit, this race was proof that the effort is making a difference. Second place is just the beginning."



Sonny Saylor of Lexington welcomed a new grandson in mid-August. That makes 5 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. Congratulations, Sonny!



Tessa Brown of McCracken County recently welcomed her 2nd grandson as a perfect addition to their family. Noah Colt Brown was born on August 5, weighing 8 lbs 5 oz, and was 20 inches long.



Tina Noe of Whitley County received a wonderful birthday gift this year - a granddaughter! Just two days after her birthday, Ivy Rose Osborne was born.

LIFE IS BETTER WITH
Grandkids



Member News



Amber Adair of Henderson County shared her daughters' accomplishments at the KY State Fair. Mackenzie Adair won her showmanship division and Reserve Grand Champion Lamancha in the Dairy Goat Show, and Raecy Adair won Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion Suffolk Ewes in the Sheep Show. Raecy's wins qualified her to compete in the Champion Drive for the Breeding Sheep Show.



Lily, daughter of Robyn Edgell in Daviess County, visited the KY State Fair for the first time to see her coloring on the KY Ag Commodities map.

This past New Year's, Allison Brimm of Whitley County took her first solo international trip. She visited London, England and Edinburgh, Scotland, with a travel company called EF Ultimate Break. She was able to explore new cities in new countries without having to worry about a single thing. Allison said her tour guide did a fabulous job of creating an itinerary with top hitter attractions, such as Buckingham Palace and Stirling Castle, and they had free time to explore. She did a tour of the Tower of London and a Harry Potter Experience in Edinburgh. She absolutely loved this trip, so much that she booked another EF trip to Barcelona, Spain in May for her birthday!



Member News



Tami Widelski, West 5-8 Administrative Support; Robyn Edgell, Daviess County; Vickie Belt, Princeton Staff Support Associate; and Nancy Williams, Graves County had fun in the sun over the summer. Tami and her husband were gracious hosts!



Professional Development Highlight

Mawnie Belcher, Community Arts Program Assistant, Whitley County

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, on a full scholarship. This award covered my classes, room and board, and all meals, and an invaluable opportunity for both personal and professional growth.

During my five days at Arrowmont, I studied surface design on pottery under the guidance of an amazing instructor. Our structured schedule included instruction from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day, with breaks, an evening speaker, and additional studio time that extended until midnight for those who wished to continue working.

I gained extensive hands-on experience, learned new techniques, and deepened my knowledge in pottery surface design. Best of all, this opportunity was pursued on my own vacation time, underscoring my commitment to continuous learning and professional development.

This was truly a transformative experience that I look forward to incorporating into both my personal art and my work with others.