

# Chi Epsilon Sigma Gamma Chapter

The National Cooperative Extension Support Staff  
Fraternity of the University of Kentucky

## Officers

### **President**

Marie Grimes

### **Vice President**

Katie Sandlin

### **Secretary**

Ryan Linton

### **Treasurer**

Georganne Collins

### **Annalist**

Robyn Edgell

### **Past President**

Kim Campbell

## Directors

### **West Region**

W 1-2, Tami Widelski

W 3-4, Lisa James

W 5-6, Brandy Garcia

W 7-8, Kim Hollinsworth

### **Central Region**

C 1-2, Carol Sue Thompson

C 3-4, Hannah Drury-Watkins

C 5-6, Lisa Casteel

C 7-8, Stephanie Howard

### **East Region**

E 1-2, Lisa Stevens

E 3-4, Brittany Browning

E 5-6, Deborah Dunaway

E 7-8, Stephanie Meredith

### **Campus**

UK Lexington,

Melissa Feddes

UK Princeton,

Vickie Belt

UK-Robinson Station,

Josh Mullins

## **ChiES Board Meeting**

**January 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM**

**Hardin County Extension Office**

President Marie Grimes called the meeting to order.

Officers Marie Grimes, Katie Sandlin, Ryan Linton, Georganne Collins, Robyn Edgell, and Kim Campbell were present. Directors Vickie Belt, Lisa James, Stephanie Howard, Tami Widelski, Stephanie Meredith, Brandy Garcia, Lisa Casteel, Melissa Feddes, Kim Hollinsworth, Hannah Drury-Watkins, and Brittany Browning were present and Josh Mullins, Carol Sue Thompson, and Lisa Stevens attended via Zoom call.

## **Welcoming Notes**

### **Secretary Report**

Ryan Linton presented the minutes from the November 12th board meeting.

*Tami Widelski moved to approve the minutes as presented. Robyn Edgell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Treasurer Report**

Georganne Collins presented the treasurer report with a checking account balance of \$28, 631.82. The T-shirt fundraiser has a gross profit of \$582.38.

It was suggested to hold another T-shirt fundraiser during the conference. Members can order short sleeve shirts and sweat shirts.

*Robyn Edgell moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lisa Casteel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

## **ChiES Membership Update**

Georganne Collins presented the membership update. As of January 16, 190 people have responded to the membership Qualtrics, up from 56 people at the previous board meeting. 142(~75%) have responded that they plan on coming to the Annual Conference, 35(~18%) have responded that they may come to the conference, and 9(~5%) have stated they will not be coming to the conference.

It was suggested that ChiES Directors read out to their AED's and encourage them to communicate that membership and conference registration is open.

It was mentioned that there need to be updates to the 50-mile exemption to include Hardin, Meade, and Larue counties.

### **2026 Conference Update**

Katie Sandlin presented updates on the 2026 ChiES Annual Conference. The board is working with the Paducah Convention Center and is expected to have a signed contract in the next few weeks. The conference will be split between two hotels, one being next to the convention center but not attached, the other being three miles away and roughly a 10 to 15 minute drive.

Meals will be held at the convention center, but breakfast will be the responsibility of the attendees.

It was discussed to partner with the Quilt Museum for Thursday night entertainment.

The board will announce the dates and location of the 2026 Annual Conference at this year's Annual Conference.

### **2025 Conference Updates**

#### **Awards Committee - Stephanie Howard, Hannah Drury-Watkins, Brittany Browning**

Award applications are due back by March 5th. The committee will then send applications to the Ohio State University ChiES Chapter for judging, and will receive results back in time to get awards.

#### **Annual Meeting Committees**

Breakout Session/ Registration Packet Committee - Ryan Linton, Georganne Collins, Josh Mullins, Katie Sandlin, Carol Sue Thompson, Brittany Browning

March 24th is the last day we have to drop rooms.

March 21 is the last day to register for the conference, and the last day to receive a full refund.

April 15 is the last day to qualify for a refund of 50%.

Meal numbers have to be set by April 16th.

Ryan Linton presented an update on Breakout Sessions. The schedule is almost full, there are a few more sessions that are in the process of being confirmed. Roundtable topics were announced and a moderator sign-up sheet was passed around. Once all breakout sessions were solidified a Qualtrics would be made and sent out to conference registrants.

Door Prize Committee - Vickie Belt, Melissa Feddes, Lisa James, Tammy Widelski

Vickie Belt announced that she would chair the Door Prize Committee so long as she has the same committee due to their wonderful work. They announced there are currently 25 door prizes. The committee is working on a plan to handle extra give away items. The board discussed how to manage raffle tickets, the discussion favored the idea of giving every attendee 25 tickets at the beginning of the conference. To disburse extra items the idea was given to do a random draw from each breakout session sign-in sheet.

Facilities/ Equipment Committee - Carol Sue Thompson, Ryan Linton, Marie Grimes, Melissa Feddes

The committee announced that every breakout session room would need A/V equipment. The hotel compensated 10% on the A/V packages. The banquet room will need a microphone.

Entertainment and Activities Committee - Katie Sandlin, Ryan Linton, Brittany Browning, Robyn Edgell, Brandy Garcia

Brittany Browning will bring inflatable yard games for Thursday night activities. The committee will also compile a list of activities around Louisville to give to attendees.

Greeting and Welcome Committee - Tami Widelski, Marie Grimes, Lisa Casteel, Kim Campbell

The committee plans to have a red carpet and paparazzi for greeting and registration. Marie Grimes will check with the hotel to make sure it is okay to do this and Hannah Drury-Watkins will check to see if the Woodford County Extension Office has a red carpet.

Guest Speaker Committee - Ryan Linton, Brittany Browning, Carol Sue Thompson, Brandy Garcia

Kim Hollinsworth will reach out to Lee Anne Pope to see if she will be our guest speaker. If she is unavailable, Ryan Linton will reach out to David Weissenhorn. Robyn Edgell will reach out to Natasha Lucas to see if she is available to give greetings from UK to conference attendees.

Stacey Potts, the Daviess county 4-H Agent, will lead the True Colors communication workshop on Wednesday afternoon. Robyn Edgell will work on a Qualtrics form for this activity.

Member and Speaker Gifts Committee - Robyn Edgell, Katie Sandlin, Lisa James, Vickie Belt

Robyn Edgell presented two different backpacks for the board to decide between. The committee decided to increase the number of each item ordered to 200. The board decided on the sturdier backpack with screen printing over the smaller backpack with embroidery.

It was decided that the board will wear their black ChiES polos on Thursday with our name tags and officer/director ribbons. Katie Sandlin will order more polos and ribbons.

Conference Overview and Welcome Committee - Marie Grimes, Robyn Edgell, Executive Board

It was decided that a QR code would be added to the opening presentation linking attendees to the ChiES Facebook page.

Registration Table Committee - Josh Mullins, Kim Campbell, Stephanie Howard, Brandy Garcia

Robyn Edgell will work on displays for each director to have placed at the registration tables. Marie Grimes will provide tablecloths and Hannah Drury-Watkins will remind her to bring them.

Robyn Edgell will also create five posters each displaying five years worth of history from ChiES. These will be displayed in the hallway outside our meeting rooms.

Special Theme Committee - Hannah Drury-Watkins, Katie Sandlin, Robyn Edgell, Ryan Linton, Vickie Belt, Lisa Casteel, Lisa James

The committee presented the selected table decorations and a new LED sign that says 'Chi Epsilon Sigma' that will be at the photo area.

Food

Marie Grimes will inform the hotel of the food selections made by the board.

**Professional Improvement/ Scholarship Committee - Hannah Drury-Watkins, Marie Grimes, Melissa Feddes**

Applications will be due back by March 7th. Ohio State ChiES will be judging these applications.

**Nominating Committee - Kim Campbell, Vickie Belt, Marie Grimes, Katie Sandlin**

The committee is working to recruit for various board positions that are available this year. Several board members announced their intent to apply for executive board positions.

March 7 is the deadline to apply for Board and Executive committee positions.

### **Budget Committee - Georganne Collins**

Georganne Collins had no updates for the budget committee, but notified the board that membership needs to be pushed more. Marie Grimes will reach out to the RED's to announce ChiES membership at their regional meeting on the 23rd. Robyn Edgell will post a link to the membership/ dues form on the website/ social media and Georganne Collins will send the Qualtrics link out to an allstaff listserv.

### **Constitution and Bylaws Committee - Kim Campbell, Ryan Linton, Robyn Edgell**

There are no committee updates.

### **Open Discussion**

It was encouraged that every board member be more active on the Teams page.

The next newsletter will contain information on open board and executive committee positions, scholarships, awards, conference registration information, a flyer for the conference, and a separate Gala invite.

Marie Grimes will contact previous board members and send out the the Gala invitation to retirees.

It was clarified that the Gala is formal dress.

Ryan Linton will reach out to AgComm and Matt Barton once more to confirm that they will be doing headshots on Thursday afternoon and area group photos Thursday evening.

The next board meeting will be March 17, 2025 at 10AM at the Bullitt County Extension Office. Committee members that are able will then travel to The Crowne Plaza.

Tentative dates for board meeting for the remainder of the year are as follows:

August 8, 9AM/10AM, McCracken County Extension Office.

November 18, 2025, 10AM, Hardin County Extension Office.

Marie Grimes adjourned the meeting at 2:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Linton, Secretary

