

# 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**

**March 17, 2025 at 10:00 AM**

**Bullitt 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, Stephanie Meredith, Brandy Garcia, Lisa Casteel, Melissa Feddes, Kim Hollinsworth, Hannah Drury-Watkins, Brittany Browning, Josh Mullins, Carol Sue Thompson, and Lisa Stevens were present. Director Tami Widelski as well as Deborah Montgomery were in attendance via Zoom.

## **Welcoming Notes**

### **Secretary Report**

Ryan Linton presented the minutes from the January board meeting.

*Kim Campbell 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 \$61,722.80. There are currently 240 members of Chi Epsilon Sigma. Conference registration is closed and there are 166 people registered, a majority of those registrations are paid.

## **2026 Conference Update**

Katie Sandlin presented updates on the 2026 ChiES Annual Conference. The 26th Annual Chi Epsilon Sigma Conference will be from April 29th, 2026 to May 1st, 2026. A contract has been signed with the Paducah Convention Center. A contract has been signed with the Holiday Inn Paducah Riverfront for 100 rooms with varying rates. King/Queen rooms are \$129, river side rooms are \$139, and balcony rooms are \$149. Rooms can be reserved starting the first week of May 2025.

*Carol Sue Thompson made a motion to pay the deposit for the con-*

*ference center deposit, totaling \$6,840. Melissa Feddes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Katie Sandling recommended that the board begin thinking about guest speakers and breakout session speakers and send those ideas and contacts to her.

### **Committee Updates**

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

53 applications have been submitted. Those applications have been sent to the Ohio Chapter of Chi Epsilon Sigma for judging. Results are expected back by the last week of March. The projected expenses for awards total ~\$625.

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

Applications have been sent to the Ohio Chapter of Chi Epsilon Sigma for judging. Certificates are ready to be printed once results are returned. There are 4 child/grandchild scholarships, 2 higher education scholarships, and 1 professional improvement scholarship. The committee's expenses are projected to be under budget.

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

The board is operating with a full slate except for E5/ E6. Carol Sue Thompson has applied to fill this role.

Budget Committee - Georganne Collins

Georganne Collins had no updates for the budget committee, but notified the board that we are expected to carry over \$10-12,000 into next year.

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

Update to the Standard Operating Procedures:

*Ryan Linton moved to amend the Standard Operating Procedures to add, "Committee Chairs are required to have served for at least one full year on the board before volunteering or being appointed to a chair position" under the committee section. Kim Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

It was discussed to amend our bylaws to add two co-advisory roles to the Board of Directors, after discussion it was decided to not move forward with this.

### **2025 Conference Committee Updates**

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

Sessions are fully booked for the conference. It was suggested that for the 2026 conference the committee reserves one spot per session for a ChiES member-led session. The committee would take submissions, evaluate, and select each member that would present in the Fall. Session Registration will go out after registration for conference is finalized. Session registration closes on April 13th.

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

The committee has put together 25 door prizes! Most items have been purchased for them except for the perishable items.

Facilities/ Equipment Committee - Carol Sue Thompson, Ryan Linton, Marie Grimes, Melissa Feddes  
The A/V expense is projected to be at or under budget, a contract is being worked on with Pinnacle. Ryan Linton will work on a modified budget and contact Seth Creasman before confirming costs. Ryan Linton will create a sign-up sheet for people to bring projectors for the conference.

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

Brittany Browning will bring inflatable yard games. Stephanie Meredith will check with her office and may also bring yard games. A location for these games will need to be confirmed, but we are planning on using the Exhibit Hall.

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

Confirmation with the hotel is needed to make sure the red carpet and other decorations can be used. After confirmation these supplies will be purchased. Tami Widelski has requested that 4-5 people sign up to help with registration. A sign-up sheet for this will be uploaded to Teams. Check in/ registration will start at 3pm on Wednesday and go until 5pm.

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

Grace Gorrell will be our guest speaker, she is charging us \$200 after discounts. The Qualtrics will need to be updated to include the True Colors Workshop on Wednesday afternoon.

The UK Welcoming and Greeting will be before the keynote speaker. Grace Gorrell will have the full 9am hour. Ryan will discuss with her the tone and content of the address, it was discussed by the board that it needs to be uplifting and empowering for support staff.

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

There will be around 25 breakout session leaders. Ryan Linton will get Robyn Edgell a more accurate number. Member gifts are backpack, t-shirt, cup, and sticker.

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

Robyn Edgell has updated the PowerPoint presentation for this years member welcome and orientation. Information that will be distributed will include the "Who to Call" document, the link to the Teams page, and QR codes for the Facebook page and conference evaluation.

Robyn Edgell will make the Conference Evaluation Qualtrics again. Robyn will also get postcards with the conference evaluation QR code to hand out as well.

Conference welcome will take place at 5pm on Wednesday followed by the True Colors Workshop.

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

The committee will need to check in with the hotel about having registration tables. Discussion was had about unregistered attendees, if a member shows up and has not paid the conference registration but has booked a hotel room they will still be able to attend the conference but not receive any member gifts. They will be invoiced for the full amount of the conference afterwards.

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

The committee will need an update on how many round tables will be available for the banquet hall, no further updates.

Food

Marie Grimes is waiting on confirmation of our selections from the hotel.

## **Open Discussion**

The T-shirt fundraiser will take place during the conference, a Qualtrics form will be created and advertised for this. T-shirts and sweatshirts will be available, but no long sleeve shirts.

Robyn Edgell shared the drafts for the 5-year display boards.

Katie Sandlin is ordering director/ executive ribbons for nametags.

There will be a sign up sheet on the Teams page for board members to bring easels, we will need them for display boards and conference check-in.

A phone number contact list will be added to the Teams page, please update your phone numbers.

Dr. Stephenson has said that they will help sponsor an expense for our conference once we have a full list of expenses.

There will need to be another day scheduled to go to the hotel and meet with them to discuss final details before the conference, we will also need to inquire about why hotel room costs are more than they were to be in the contract.

The board will be meeting at the hotel at 10am on Wednesday, April 23 to begin setting up for the conference.

On Wednesday the board will wear a ChiES T-shirt from a previous year. On Thursday the board will wear their black polos, if you still need one please contact Katie Sandlin. On Friday, the board will wear the new T-shirts.

Area pictures will take place Thursday night before dinner. Members will arrive to dinner and be called up by area grouping to take their picture and then get in line for food.

Discussion was had about the 2027 Conference and places it may be held in Eastern Kentucky.

## **Adjournment**

Marie Grimes adjourned the meeting at 1:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Linton, Secretary

