

Fay B. Strickler Heads National 8,000-Member Organization

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family
Features Editor

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Fay B. Strickler is best known to most of *Lancaster Farming* readers as the home economist who writes the bi-weekly column "Consuming Thoughts."

In Berks County, she serves as the family and consumer science extension educator — for 30 years.

But Strickler's fame extends far beyond Pennsylvania's boundaries. She is the national president of Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP), which is the cooperative extensions professionals' organization whose mission is to foster the standards of excellence in the extension system and to develop the extension profession and the professional.

That means Strickler presides over more than 8,000 members (representing faculty, staff and administrators in agriculture, natural resources, 4-H and family living) in land-grant universities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Starting this past Wednesday

through today, Strickler conducted the National Council Meeting at the ESP Professional Development Conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

The conference theme, "Call to the Post: Creating Strategies for the Future," highlighted Dr. Ron Crouch, nationally known demographer and head of the U.S. Census data clearinghouse in Kentucky; Keynote Trena Anastasia from Colorado, who discussed "Generations in the Workplace," and Dr. Phillip Van Hooser, who has an enviable reputation as "The Business Speaker with Uncommon, Common Sense."

Strickler said, "Serving as National Epsilon Sigma Phi this past year has been both a challenging and rewarding experience, which provided a unique opportunity to use my leadership skills on a national level."

One of those challenges resulted from the terrorists' attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, which resulted in the need to cancel the national convention scheduled in New York about a week later.

"The tragic events of Sept. 11

changed the lives of all Americans and tested each of us personally and professionally. As an organization, we also changed, adapted, and became more resilient in order to conduct the business at hand," Strickler said.

Strickler's responsibilities carried a four-year commitment in the leadership roles of second vice president, president elect, president, and as past president during the upcoming year.

As National ESP President, Strickler is also a member of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP). JCEP is a partnership of professional extension organizations that addresses critical issues facing extension professionals and focuses on strengthening the efforts of the member organizations by promoting communication, cooperation and professionalism among all extension educators. JCEP sponsors programs such as the annual Public Issues Leadership Development Conference in Washington, D.C.

Strickler's academic degrees are Bachelor of Science from Albright College and a Master of Science from The Pennsylvania



Fay B. Strickler, Consuming Thoughts columnist for this paper, conducts a workshop as part of her responsibilities as national ESP president for the cooperative extension's professional organization.

State University.

Strickler joined Penn State Cooperative Extension Berks County in 1972 following work as home service director, UGI Corporation - Lancaster Division.

During her professional career, she has also served as state presi-

dent of Epsilon Sigma Phi, and state president of Pennsylvania Extension of Family and Consumer Sciences as well as vice president for Professional Development of the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Extension Plans Mini-Conference For Childcare Professionals Nov. 9

DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.) — Caring for children is an important job. To learn more about being a successful provider whether at a center or in your home, attend this mini-conference. The half-day workshop series will be conducted on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural

Resources Center in Dauphin from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Workshops include the following:

- Putting the Spotlight on Professionalism will focus on understanding the newly implemented Core Body of Knowledge (CBK) and Professional Development Record (PDR). All provid-

ers will be expected to maintain their own records of development. Learn how to maintain yours.

- Shake, Rattle, Roll — It's All Music will focus on introducing music in daily programming. Children love to make and hear various sounds; it is a natural part of their early development.

- Making It Easy — Some young children may have physical, mental, social, or emotional challenges as they enter your facility. Learn some practical ways to involve children in activities and to make the transition easier for everyone including the parents.

All workshops have been ap-

proved by the Department of Public Welfare training system for up to three hours of certified training. The cost of conference is \$10 per person, which covers a hearty morning break. For additional information or to receive a registration flyer, contact Penn State Cooperative Extension, Dauphin County office, call (717) 921-8803.



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