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The Newsletter of Epsilon Sigma Phi

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Engage, Enlighten, Enjoy - 2009

Ellen Burton, National ESP President, Illinois

2009 has arrived and with it the hopes, promises, and challenges that a new year holds for each of us. What the New Year will mean to each of us is yet to unfold, but we do know that our Country, our States, our Universities, and our people are facing many challenges.

As Extension professionals we face challenges that may be both professional and personal. Professionally, when Extension budgets are "tight" we know that professional development opportunities may be reduced and travel may be restricted. This is when your professional organization is more important than ever in helping you maintain your cutting edge knowledge base through distance education, scholarships, grants and travel stipends to support participation, networking, mentoring, and providing you with leadership opportunities.

ESP has numerous professional development opportunities for you. These include the upcoming Regional JCEP Leadership Workshops, which are scheduled for February 2009 in Orlando, FL and San Diego, CA. Dr. Albert Pierce, Professor of Ethics and National Security at the National Defense University will be the featured speaker at both workshops. Dr. Pierce both challenges and motivates participants. These workshops are open to all Extension Professionals and will provide an opportunity for participation in leadership workshops planned by each of the National Extension Professional Associations. Detailed information about the workshops can be found at http://www.jcep.org.

Another opportunity is the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD), sponsored by JCEP, which will be held April 27 - 29 in Arlington, VA. The PILD Conference Highlights include learning about: connecting the capitol and the community; the opportunity to hear from the leadership of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) – the new federal "home" of Cooperative Extension; insights on the appropriation process and key federal budget priorities of the Land Grant University System; learning about successful programs that better market Extension to local decision-makers; interacting with your members of Congress during the "Day on Capitol Hill—and much more. Registration and Conference information is available at http://jcep.org/workshops.htm

ESP members are encouraged to enhance their leadership knowledge and learn more about the work of Epsilon Sigma Phi by applying to serve on a National ESP Committee for 2009. To serve—you must apply—to be on one of the seven National ESP Committees. The form and additional information about each committee can be found on the ESP website http://espnational.org Nomination/application forms are due to Deborah Thomason, Second Vice-President of ESP, by April 1, 2009

Engage, Enlighten, Enjoy — 2009 (con't)

Those selected to serve on a National ESP Committee will start their term during the 2009 National ESP Conference to be held September 13 – 16 in Fargo, ND. ESP provides a travel stipend for their committee members. This is one more example of how ESP assists its members.

I want to say thank you to each ESP member who has made a pledge to the ESP Development Fund. Each contribution helps to insure that ESP will be able to maintain its ability to provide professional development opportunities in the future.

As we move forward into the New Year I leave you with the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson:

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us."

I am honored to serve as your President and I look forward to working with you this year.

ESP Scholarships, Grants and Recognition Opportunities

Pam Jacobs, National ESP Scholarship, Grants and Recognition Committee Member, Illinois.

The National ESP Scholarships, Grants and Recognition Committee is actively working to update the Section E - Scholarships, Grants and Recognitions portion of the handbook. We want to make sure the information on opportunities for our members is clear and easy to access.

Two information sheets with our new logo (Scholarships / Grants, and Recognition Opportunities) are now available on the ESP website at http://espnational.org. Be sure to use these as you promote these opportunities in your chapter. ESP Chapters should help identify

members to make application for the many scholarships, grants and recognition opportunities! Be sure to check out the information and deadlines: http://www.espnational.org

- PILD Conference scholarship deadline, February 1
- McKinney Public Issues Scholarship deadline, March 1
- Richard R. Angus Professional Development Scholarship, March 1
- Administrative Leadership Scholarship, March 1
- Mini Grant applications due, February 1

The National ESP Scholarship, Grants and Recognition Committee looks forward to reviewing many worthy applications in 2009!

PILD Conference

Elizabeth Claypoole, Chair of National ESP Public Issues Committee, New York

I hope that you can join us for our annual Washington, DC based conference this upcoming year, April 27 – 29, 2009. Planning has begun for an excellent program and will include information on the implementation of the New Farm Bill and time for interaction with the new national program leaders.

The planning committee hopes that everyone can include this as a leadership development opportunity in your professional development plan, and not just the upcoming ESP officers. Each state is requested to put together a delegation of staff and volunteers, but others are always welcome.

Last year's program was rated as one of the best conferences ever and the new meeting sight of the Key Bridge Marriott posed some challenges which were easily remedied. To that end, the planning committee is including another breakfast for the first day of the conference to prevent people from having to search out early morning food. Also in this year's agenda will be extra time on Tuesday afternoon to visit with "downtown" agencies, if desired. The Agriculture Agents have scheduled time to meet with Farm Bureau and USDA staff during Tuesday afternoon and other associations may choose to schedule similar events. As always, the entire day on Wednesday is devoted and allocated for full participation in meeting with your legislative representatives.

A meeting announcement flyer is now on the JCEP website. Mark the dates on your calendar and see you then! There will be an RFP of session on dealing with Public Issues in your states and presentations chosen will be given complimentary registration – keep tuned in to the JCEP website!

Planned Giving to ESP Endowment Campaign

Mark Stillwell, Chair of Resource Development and Management Committee, Missouri

Gifts may be made in cash, securities or property during one's lifetime. To make a cash gift consult additional information on page 8 of this newsletter.

Deferred gifts may be made by specifying Epsilon Sigma Phi Development Fund as beneficiaries of your estate through trust gifts, bequests and life insurance.

The ESP Development Fund has met the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code that allow gifts to be deductible for income tax and estate tax purposes.

To include the ESP Development Fund in your will, remember to consult an attorney and family members that may be affected. Additionally, be specific in the bequest statement as to the entity receiving the bequest. For additional information, Contact the National ESP Office, Linda D. Cook, Executive Director, PO Box 357340, Gainesville, FL 32635-7340, Telephone: 352-378-6665, FAX 352-375-0722, espoffice@espnational.org

Water

John Lea-Cox, Member of ESP National Global Relations Committee and Tau Chapter of ESP at University of Maryland

Water – that mysterious solvent that bathes our planet and sustains all life as we know it. Merely two hydrogen and an oxygen molecule held together by weak bonds. It makes up over 70% of our bodies and without drinking fresh water every day, we would probably survive less than a week. It is about as vital to our existence as oxygen. How the blue of this planet came into existence is still a matter of conjecture, but simply, the earth's mass allows gravity to hold an atmosphere. Water vapor and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere provide a greenhouse effect which helps to maintain a relatively steady surface temperature on earth. The cycle of evaporation, transpiration and condensation, refreshes and sustains our water supplies. If our planet was smaller, a thinner atmosphere would cause temperature extremes preventing the accumulation of water except in polar ice caps, as on Mars.

So what - there's plenty of it, right? Well, unfortunately, like many other natural resources, it depends on where you live and quite frankly, the state of the region. Currently, over 40% of the world's population does not access to clean drinking water, and more than 2.2 million people died in 2000 from waterborne diseases or drought. UNESCO's World Water Development Report in 2003 indicated that by 2025, the quantity of water available to the world population will decrease by 30 percent. What most people don't realize is that worldwide, almost 70% of freshwater resources are used by agriculture, as irrigation in many climates is a key component to increasing crop yields above subsistence levels. Here in the US, the processing of 1 gallon of bio-ethanol requires 4 gallons of fresh water, which is then degraded enough to require that water to be remediated before release back into the environment. Water quality issues from manufacturing, urban waste-water treatment and agriculture are a fact of life all over the world. Given that over half the world's population lives within 50 miles of a coastline, the impact of population and urban growth is also putting unprecedented pressure on our water resources and the ecological systems that once could naturally filter and refresh that water.

So when I'm asked what I do in extension, the answer is simple – I am looking for ways to educate and inform people how we can develop more rational ways to save and recycle our planet's lifeblood. We need agriculture to become more efficient at using water to crop crops and to reduce the impacts of our production practices. But it is also an issue that we need to educate and inform everyone about – especially our youth, since they are inheriting a planet that is a lot smaller than it once appeared to be. Recently, we have become a little more focused on energy and climate change, but our access and use of water will be one of our major international issues in future years.



2009 RFP for National ESP Conference

Sandy Corridon, National ESP President-Elect, and Chair of Professional Development Committee, Maryland

With the Happy New Year comes opportunities to share your expertise and the ESP Professional Development Committee asks that you consider submitting an RFP for Concurrent Sessions and/or Poster Sessions at our 2009 National Epsilon Sigma Phi Conference in Fargo, ND next September. Requests for Proposals are due to President-Elect and Chair of the Professional Development Committee, Sandy Corridon by February 27th. The forms are on-line at http://espnational.org in PDF or Word Format. To help insure that none get lost in cyberspace, we ask that you submit them electronically (Corridon@umd.edu) and send a printed copy to C. S. Corridon, Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740. TOPICS FOR PRESENTATIONS/POSTERS: Note: All topics apply to adult and youth programming:

- 1. Leadership Development
- 2. Program Development, Evaluation and
- 3. Collaborations and Alliances
- 4. New Communication Tools and Technologies
- 5. Volunteer Programs
- 6. Globalization of Extension and Multicultural Programming—presentations of
- 7. Financial Strategies
- 8. Administrative/Organizational Strategies
- 9. Public Policy Issues
- 10. Community Development
- 11. Marketing Extension
- 12. Life Members/Retirees

You Could Earn A Scholarship or Mini-Grant!

Mary Ellen Blackburn, National ESP Scholarships, Grants and Recognition Committee Chair, Georgia

ESP is dedicated to "developing the Extension profession and professional" in many ways, one of which is providing scholarships and mini-grants to its members. These opportunities are available to ESP members.

Professional Development Mini-Grant Program (February 1 deadline)

Epsilon Sigma Phi provides up to four mini-grants up to \$1000 each to stimulate the professional development of Extension faculty. They are awarded regardless of region.

Some of the criteria include:

- · The project should address professional development of members.
- The planning team must be interdisciplinary, with at least fifty percent of persons on project planning team being current members of an Epsilon Sigma Phi chapter.
- · The project should provide model professional development events or materials that could be replicated or adapted by other Epsilon Sigma Phi chapters.
- · The projects are to be completed one year from date funding is announced.

Scholarships include:

Richard R. Angus Professional Development Scholarship (March 1 deadline)

Epsilon Sigma Phi provides \$2,000 annually to fund scholarships not to exceed \$500 per member to encourage, stimulate, and support professional development through participation in courses, seminars, conferences or workshops (to be completed after the May 1 announcement date).

Selection criteria include:

- · Relevance of proposed study to the overall professional development of the applicant.
- · Relevance of proposed study to their state's emphasis on professionalism.
- · Potential of the proposed study to develop professionalism in the applicant.
- · Involvement in ESP.
- · Membership dues are current.

Mike McKinney Public Issues Scholarship (February 1 deadline)

Epsilon Sigma Phi has established this scholarship in partnership with Mike McKinney for eligible members to attend a professional conference or meeting, or to take formal coursework toward an advanced degree in a public policy/issue area. The scholarship is to provide financial assistance for any ESP member to gain or enhance education or skills in any area of public policy/public

issues. Current ESP members who have not previously received this scholarship are eligible. One \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually.

Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference Scholarship (February 1 deadline)

Epsilon Sigma Phi has established this scholarship for eligible members to attend the Public Issues / Leadership Development National Conference in order to become informed about and develop skills in responding to public issues and legislative matters affecting Extension programs and personal needs. The scholarship is to be used to defray the cost of attending the conference. Current Epsilon Sigma Phi members who have not previously attended

the Public Issues/Leadership Development Conference are eligible. Four scholarships of \$600.00 each will be awarded annually. will be given on a regional basis; however, discretion will be used depending on the number and quality of applications.

Administrative Leadership Scholarship (four @ \$500) (March 1 deadline)

Epsilon Sigma Phi has established this scholarship to promote continued professional development for eligible members to attend the National ESP Conference. The scholarship is to defray the cost of attending the National ESP Conference. Current Epsilon Sigma Phi members who are national, state, regional, county or program administrators are eligible. This must be their first Epsilon Sigma Phi National ESP Conference. Four scholarships of \$500.00 each will be awarded annually to outstanding administrators/leaders based on accomplishments.

To find out more and access the application forms for any of these opportunities go to the ESP Handbook at: http://espnational.org/handbook/2007/SectionE2007.pdf

Chapter Sharing—Alpha Eta, Ohio

Gwen Wolford, Alpha Eta Chapter Chair of Global Relations

Alpha Eta Chapter, Ohio, had a really successful ESP Global Relations project. At our Extension Annual Conference we collected items for former Alpha Eta president and Naval Reservist Glenn Welling's battalion which he is currently commanding in Iraq. Yesterday we shipped 23 boxes of personal care items, food and other holiday cheer to this group. Our educators also donated over \$250 to cover shipping costs. We will probably be sending an additional but smaller shipment in February.

In addition to this effort, at their annual meeting, Alpha Eta chapter voted to pay Glenn's ESP dues for as long as he remains on active duty so that he can keep his status current. We are very proud of the response from our fellow chapter members and other Extension colleagues.

A Reminder of Our Purpose

Deborah Thomason, Second Vice President, South Carolina

Oops! I said YES, when asked to serve as an officer or committee member for my state Epsilon Sigma Phi Chapter. Now what? My first suggestion would be to take a moment and review The ESP Handbook http://www.espnational.org/handbook/index2.htm to see all the resources that are available to you as a member of Epsilon Sigma or as an officer of your state chapter. That is exactly what I did as the newly elected Second Vice-President.

At the national level the Chapter Relations Committee focuses on strengthening and enhancing chapters and leadership within the chapters through the following:

- Providing resources and training to support the development of chapter and member leadership.
- Promoting leadership opportunities to membership; i.e. National Committee membership and National Officer Opportunities.
- Strengthening and enhancing linkages between the ESP National Board and chapters.
- Providing support to chapters who are forming, rebuilding or strengthening.
- Making recommendations to chapters on techniques and methods for strengthening chapter health.
- Striving to build a viable chapter in each state or multi-state coalition.
- Keeping chapters informed about available resources for strengthening chapters.
- Providing opportunities for communications between chapters.

What can you do as a member or chapter officer?

- * Support National and chapter goals.
- * Maintain annual membership (pay dues on time).
- * Take advantage of opportunities offered through the organization.

- * Serve on committees; initiating action; sharing expertise.
- * Serve as a chapter and/or National officer, Board member or on a committee.
- * Support chapter program of work and
- * Contribute to Epsilon Sigma Phi Development Fund or other special projects.

The handbook (page 22 Section F) also suggests that as professionals, "we must be willing to:

- * Become more creative.
- * Take more risks.
- * Look beyond traditional limits.
- * Explore the unknown.
- * Develop new options and strategies.
- * Make the negative positive.
- * Establish workable goals.
- * Direct self toward these goals.
- * Evaluate program impact.
- * Be accountable to our organization."

On the Right Track— Marketing Update

Deborah Thomason, Second Vice President, South Carolina

My home has been in a constant state of remodeling for over six years, my office building has been an active construction site for three years. So being in the midst of change is a big part of my daily routine. Marketing our professional organization is a continual process that requires patience and diligence as we proceed through a major "renovation" of the Epsilon Sigma Phi image.

Chapters will gradually begin to find opportunities to display the new marketing pieces that were introduced during Galaxy III in Indianapolis. The new website format is currently under construction and will be a wonderful asset for members when it is completed.

Please contact me dthmsn@clemson.edu or Linda Cook at

espoffice@espnational.org

if you need the new logos for use in your chapter documents. Eventually the logos will be on the new website in formats that will be easy to download for chapter use.

Personally, because of the tough economic times the remodeling at my home has slowed considerably and construction at work has been delayed. On the bright side, Epsilon Sigma Phi is moving forward and we all will all be the beneficiaries of the results.

Reminders from JCEP

Ellen Burton, ESP National President, Illinois

- PILD Presentation RFP is posted on the JCEP Web site and is due to Ellen Burton, <u>eburton@illinois.edu</u>, by February 1, 2009. Three presentations will be selected and each presenter will receive a waiver of their PILD Registration fee.
- JCEP Team Award Application is on the JCEP Web site and is due to Ellen Burton, <u>eburton@illinois.edu</u> by April 1, 2009.
- Ethics in Today's Extension World Web cast is a live lecture and Q & A with Dr. Albert C. Pierce Professor of Ethics and National Security, National Defense University. This session is open to all Extension professionals. The session is scheduled for Tuesday February 10, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Registration is \$25 and must be paid by February 5, 2009. The registration form can be found on the JCEP website at http://jcep.org/workshops.htm. All web cast participants will be sent via email a confirmation. URL and instructions for connecting. Participants will need a high-speed internet connection, a computer and speakers. The video and audio will be broadcast via the web. A chat feature will be used to take questions from web cast participants.

Have You Visited the Go Global Link to International Connections on the ESP Website?



ESP Cruising to the Panama Canal You Asked For It

Michael McKinney, ESP Life Member, Florida



Sally Soileau, ESP Global Relations Committee, Louisiana

Resources are available at the Go Global site for work opportunities and/or personal travel. With just a few clicks, pertinent information is organized on your computer screen, ready when your international questions arise.

The Go Global site is designed to assist the Extension with professionalism in the international realm. This article is inviting you to take a moment to examine the resources at the site, or share international resources that may enhance the available library of international resources currently available at the site.

If you desire information on international travel, you may want to check out several of the Go Global sites including the following:

- •Etiquette International http://www.etiquetteintl.com/, This site gives pointers on cultural differences including relationships, communication, differing attitudes toward punctuality, gifts, entertainment and cultural taboos.
- •Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (888-232-3228) or http://www.cdc.gov/. You will want to check with Traveler's Health for the latest information on immunization requirements and health risks.

You may want to check out the Extensión en Español http://extensionenespanol.net/resource to obtain multi-language educational resources for your clientele to have English/Spanish Extension publications in a multitude of Extension topics for clientele needs.

Go Global features a National Initiative to Internationalize Extension website link to Michigan State University Extension. This initiative not only includes bringing international and global content to domestic programs, but is designed to support Extension efforts abroad.

In addition, at the Go Global site, University of Wisconsin - Extension International Center Posts activities and events for international opportunities at: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ international/index.cfm.

Go Global link is visible at the homepage of the National ESP website and all Extension professionals are encouraged to make use of the information cataloged at the site. (http://espnational.org/). The information included in this article includes a sampling of the resources ready for your exploration; enjoy your visit to the Go Global link at the National ESP website!

ESP members overwhelming selected the Panama Canal for their second cruising experience. The beautiful *ms Zuiderdam* was selected for the 10-day cruise which leaves Ft. Lauderdale, Fl on January 12th of 2010. This popular vacation destination has resulted in a limited number of available staterooms for the upcoming cruise. Reservation deadline is March 16, 2009. Those sending in their deposits prior to 2/15/09 will be able to take advantage of a promotion through Holland America, which calls for a \$300.00 deposit plus required travel insurance. Those reserving after that date will need to send a \$600.00 deposit plus insurance.

Ports of Call: This ten day adventure will take us to Half Moon Cay in the Bahamas, Aruba, Curacao, Panama, and Costa Rica. Optional tours will include an agricultural tour of the Costa Rican rain forest featuring coffee, banana, and sugar cane production. You can also take a train through the Panama jungle to see the Pacific locks. We are also negotiating with the ship to allow our home economist a tour through the ship's kitchens.

Advantages of Group Cruising: Group cruising affords you your own personal independence plus the added security and fellowship of traveling with friends and colleagues. Our last ESP cruise is the perfect testimonial, as most will be returning for the Panama Canal Cruise with Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Act Fast: Due to the popularity of this destination we were only able to secure a limited number of staterooms on the ship. ALL reservations will be accepted on a first come basis. ESP members are urged to take advantage of the early deposit discount by 2/15/09. A fee schedule and instructions for making deposits are posted on the ESP website at http://espnational.org. You can direct your questions to our ESP Liaison, Mike McKinney, by calling 813-973-4263 (evenings) or email at: espcruise@msn.com. Deposits are to be sent directly to Linda Pinholster at AAA Travel in Tampa, Florida.

Public Issues Education—an Exciting Role for Extension

Mary Ellen Waltemire, ESP National Public Issues Committee Member, Maryland

Public Issues...What a hot topic in the last couple of years! In an effort to help you better understand the depth and scope of what Pubic Issues Education encompasses, the Public Issues Committee of ESP will be working to identify and share success stories in this programming arena. Our committee started this work last year and we're excited about the potential to increase our organizations' capacity to do more in this area given the current political and societal climate.

Public issues education in its broadest terms can be defined as "the delivery of educational programs to enhance society's capacity to understand and address public issues". Extension programming on public issues includes, and is not limited to, the following types of activities:

Identifying emerging public issues

- Analyzing policy alternatives
- Gathering and disseminating information about a public issue
- Designing a process for bringing together stakeholders involved in a public issue
- Developing discussion guides for use at deliberative meetings and forums
- Convening and moderating public forums
- Designing dispute resolution processes for polarized conflicts

Based on an article from the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Extension's programming in public issues education is based on four core assumptions, values and beliefs:

 Education is a powerful tool for improving the quality of public

- choices. Informed decision making is a cornerstone of effective participation in the democratic process.
- Dialogue among people from diverse backgrounds and vantage points can enhance the quality of public decisions. When mutual trust and respect are cultivated, such dialogue can occur.
- Innovative solutions often rest on the willingness to negotiate, share power and explore collaborative action.
- Capacity building through education may enable nonparticipants to become involved in public discourse. This may allow for collaborative solutions previously not possible. The opportunity for every person to learn is crucial.

Many states are involved in public issues education. As reported by Jan Temple, lowa is working to *go green* by conserving resources. They have formed committees to address various initiatives which include: local renewable energy production, local food systems, landscaping for energy efficiency and nature appreciation and green economic development to name a few.

In Kentucky, Extension colleagues are developing annual reports that show community-level impacts of Extension programs; working annually with the Extension director to develop agriculture economic data for legislators; working directly with Extension advisory councils to communicate with local and state legislators the success of extension programs. Thanks to Chuck Stamper for sharing this overview of your state's work.

The opportunities for Public Issues education are limitless. There is no better time to get involved in critical local and state issues where we can utilize the knowledge and research of our Land Grant University system to help analyze and solve broad public concerns.

Life Member Feature: Woodworking Skills Put to Good Use

Roger Sherer, Past President, Alpha Lambda Chapter, Indiana

Art Redinger, retired Extension
Educator and a member of the Alpha
Lambda Chapter in Indiana has put his
artistic woodworking skills to good use for
Epsilon Sigma Phi through the years.

Since the early 1990's this former chapter president has used his special skills to contribute to ESP by hand crafting an ESP plaque that is auctioned off at the national conference. The unique plaque features the Epsilon Sigma Phi logo and the wood utilized in the plaque is from the "state tree" of the national conference host state for that year. Of course various ESP members from around the country have fun with this unique auction item and "bid it up" since the national president always wants to have the plaque as a cherished keepsake of the time that they have devoted to the ESP organization.

On the chapter level in Indiana, Art also crafts a plaque each year made from the Tulip tree, the state tree of Indiana. This item is also sold at benefit auction to assist the chapter. His skills are also featured each year at the Pioneer Village at the Indiana State Fair where he serves as one of the volunteers highlighting his furniture making skills.

Thanks to Art's volunteer efforts several thousand dollars have been raised nationally to help Epsilon Sigma Phi. We appreciate all that he has done to assist our organization through the years.





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ESP Development Fund: Going for the Goal! Join Today

The ESP Endowment Campaign is helping to endow sufficient resources to sustain current scholarships, professional development opportunities, and recognition programs for Extension professionals and offers the possibility of new initiatives. Significant progress has been made on the \$500,000 Development Fund Campaign launched in 2002. With over 675 contributors, ESP is well on its way to reaching the goal.

Please consider making a contribution of any amount. If you have given before, please consider making another contribution. All campaign donors will be recognized in the listing of Epsilon Sigma Phi Contributors. Special recognition is provided for donors with an accumulated gift at the Bronze Key and higher levels.

You May Contribute Today and help us reach our goal of \$125,000 this year by using the contribution

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