

# **Southern Region Middle Management Committee Meeting (via ZOOM – recorded)**

## **February 13, 2020**

### **Minutes**

Chairman Blake Lanford initiated ZOOM meeting and called committee meeting to order at 10:00 am EST. Members present included: Kimberly Holmes, Sonya Ferguson, Jim Stewart, Jerry Lamb, William Hodge, Jeff Young, Mike Martin, Sharon Reynolds, Jenny Cocanougher, Blake Lanford, Brenda Rogers, Lonnie Johnson.

Dr. Cartwright, committee advisor was unable to join the meeting today and provided comments for Blake to share with the group

Jeff Young gave update from National Urban Extension Leaders. Working towards identifying an Urban Extension representative at each institution. Southern Region NUEL Conference will be held August 18-20 in Houston TX.

Members shared updates from their states. Highlights included:

Arkansas – beginning search for new Director of Extension due to upcoming retirement of Dr. Cartwright. In the process of switching over to new software system (WORKDAY) for HR and financial management. If any others are currently using WORKDAY please share tips, comments.

Tennessee – Currently interim directors for all 3 program areas (4-H, FCS, ANR). Currently searching for 4-H and FCS. Governor's budget proposal includes increased funding to provide 30 new positions.

Alabama – Alabama A&M is operating 9 urban centers across the state. Developed new mission and vision for urban centers and re-aligning programs with urban opportunities.

Kentucky – Continuing to transition to a new administrative model with 3 regional directors (in place as of Feb 1: East Region – Daniel Wilson; Central Region – Natasha Lucas; West Region – Anna Smith Porter.) and 28 Area Extension Directors. New administrative model will increase agent time available for programming; increase supervisor mentoring opportunities; streamline fiscal accountability and compliance; and reduce staff to supervisor ratios (goal to limit to 24-28 direct contacts). Link to map and other information on the transition: <https://extension.ca.uky.edu/administrative-model> 14 AED positions currently posted, closing February 23; remaining 14 AED positions will be posted after July 1. Goal is to complete transition by January 1, 2021. Also currently seeking an Extension Evaluation specialist.

Georgia – 40 new employees, but anticipating a 4% and 6% cut in the upcoming biennial budget year. Dean of college will be retiring June 30.

Alabama (Tuskegee) – working to address needs from extensive flooding.

Virginia – anticipating first state level budget increase in several years.

Brenda Rogers – system Vice President is retiring

South Carolina – NOA resources available for facilitation training, excellent resources – appropriate for all states, not just coastal states.

Jim Stewart provided an update from the Program Leaders Committee. The next PLN Conference will be August 24-27 in Fort Worth Texas (at the Fort Worth Hilton <https://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hilton-fort-worth-FTWFWHF/index.html>). Theme is “Opportunities in Transition, Driving Change”. Conference agenda is changing slightly – no pre-conference option, replacing Ignite sessions with short 5 minute presentations after keynote speaker.

Jim also reported that a hotel has been secured for the Middle Managers’ Conference April 5-8 2021. The conference will be held at the Cambria Hotel in downtown Nashville (<https://www.cambrianashville.com/>).

Two webinars are being planned:

March 26 – 10 am webinar on the Georgia OnBoarding program

May (Exact date to be determined, but will be a Thursday afternoon) – Process used to develop Kentucky’s Community Assessment reports <https://extension.ca.uky.edu/communityassessment>

Links to webinars will be shared at a later date.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Jenny Cocanougher ([jcocanou@uky.edu](mailto:jcocanou@uky.edu))