

Middle Management Committee, So Region PLN
Minutes – August 24-26 2020 via ZOOM

The meeting of the Southern Region Middle Management Committee was called to order on Tuesday August 25, 2020 by Chairperson Blake Lanford of South Carolina. The meeting was conducted virtually via ZOOM.

44 members were present with 2 administrative advisors and 1 guest. Dr. Carolyn Williams and Dr. Tom Dobbins provided an update from the Program Leadership Network (PLN) and comments regarding Extension's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to the meeting, Vice-Chair Michael Martin (Georgia), surveyed committee members on current scope, organizational structure, agent salary and agent incentives (ie career ladder promotions). A written report summarizing this information was emailed to committee members prior to the meeting and can also be found at <http://srpln.msstate.edu/pln/mm.html>.

Committee members shared individual state responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information shared related to office operations, clientele interactions, and partnerships/collaborations.

Dr. Rochelle Sapp, University of Georgia, led the group in an introduction to MURAL, an online platform for virtual meetings. After the introductory work on MURAL, the committee meeting was adjourned.

Chair Blake Lanford reconvened the committee meeting on Wednesday August 26. A report on the 2021 Middle Manager Conference was presented. The conference will be held in-person April 8-10, 2021 in Nashville, TN.

Dr. Rochelle Sapp provided instruction to Committee members for the development of the 2021 Plan of Work. Committee members met in breakout rooms, utilizing MURAL, to prioritize action items for the Plan of Work. The committee came back together and each group reported on their decisions for the action plans. The committee officers will take this information and submit on the Plan of Work document and send to the Program Leadership Committee.

Dr. Lauren Griffith gave a presentation on managing multiple generations in the workplace. Following Dr. Griffith's presentation, Blake Lanford opened the floor for nominations for secretary. This person will serve as secretary for 2021, advance to vice-chair in 2022 and advance to chair of the committee in 2023. Eric Simone, Florida, was nominated and elected by acclamation to the office secretary.

Committee members reviewed the draft plan of work. The final 2021 plan of work may be found at <http://srpln.msstate.edu/pln/mm.html>.

Committee members continued to share individual state responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. After all states shared and discussion ended, Blake Lanford adjourned the 2020 annual meeting of the Southern Region Middle Manager committee.

Minutes submitted by,
Jenny Cocanougher, Kentucky
jcocanou@uky.edu