

Minutes
Middle Managers Committee
Conference Call
(605) 468-8029
October 12, 2017+

Participants:

- Dee Cooper, Oklahoma –Chair
- Dan Goerlich, Virginia
- Gerald Jones, Alcorn State- 1890 PLC Representative
- Blake Lanford, Clemson - Secretary
- Beth Phelps, Arkansas
- Sharon Reynolds, Arkansas – Vice Chair
- Jeff Ripley, Texas
- Jim Stewart, Tennessee
- Jeff Young, Kentucky
- Claude Bess
- Eric Simonne
- Rick Cartwright., Arkansas – ASRED Advisor

1. Dee Cooper, Middle Managers Chair, welcomed committee and called the meeting to order.

Advisor Updates

- Dee introduced Dr. Rick Cartwright as the new ASRED Administrative Advisor
- Dr. Cartwright suggested that nothing critical had been derived from recent meeting with Extension Directors. He made the group aware of the current NIFA Director's search for a new position; possibly Iowa State, President and reinforced the importance of impact reporting as discussed at recent PLN proceedings. Committee members were encouraged to make themselves aware of employee assistance initiatives in FL (Aid a Gator) and TX in the wake of recent storm activity and to participate as needed. He gave a brief update on the status of Extension in Puerto Rico and suggested that it's too to determine a way forward given the diminished state of infrastructure and conditions on the ground.
- Eric asked Dr. Cartwright about the relationship maintained with Puerto Ric Land Grant Institutions and PLN. More information about existing Cooperative Agreements is needed.

Committee Reviews

- Eric Simonne gave an update on the Quarterly Middle Managers newsletter and suggested that he would be working with Blake to compile content and release the next newsletter in early November.
- Jeff Ripley gave an update on the developing MM webinar series and indicated that the first webinar is tentatively planned for April, 2018. Jeff suggested a reminder be placed in the upcoming newsletter soliciting topics for the webinar.
- Dan Goerlich offered an update on committee work with organizational tools for motivating Extension employees. He suggested the group would start with a literature review in January, 2018.
- Jim Stewart - IT Committee, no update at this time.

- Dee Cooper reminded the group that performance review instruments were being compiled for post on the website and that to date he's received one. Materials should be sent directly to Dee for compilation
- Eric Simonne provide an update on the 2019 MM Conference. Bids are being reviewed for host conference hotels and the planning committee will be soliciting ideas for agenda content in the near future.
- Gerald Jones updated the group on his status as PLN Chair and PLC Rep. He suggested that any ideas for the upcoming PLN Conference should be passed along to him. Eric inquired as to University HR involvement in PLN.
- Jeff Ripley offered an update of TX operations in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. He informed the group of Extension's prominent role in the Rebuild Texas Commission and the new opportunities that were presented to approximately 30% of A&M Extension staff as they work to rebuild communities impacted by the storm. Extension will be involved until May 2019.
- Future Middle Manager Conference calls are scheduled for 02/08/18, 04/12/18, 06/14/18 and 07/12/18

The Middle Managers Committee conference call adjourned at 10:33 am Thursday, October 12, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Lanford, Secretary