



**Southern Region PLN Conference  
PLC Meeting  
August 22, 2019**

**Participants:**

- ANR – No representation
- COM – Michelle Olgers, Lisa Stearns
- CRD – Gill Finley, Iris Crosby, Mark Waller
- FCS – Mike Gutter, Leslie Speller-Henderson
- 4-H Youth Development— Mitzi Downing
- IT – Brian McGhee
- MM – Gerald Jones, Lonnie Johnson, Jr., Jim Stewart
- PSD – Celeste Allgood, Meredith Weinstein

**1862 Advisor:** Randy Taylor

**1890 Advisor:** Vonda Richardson

**AEA:** No representatives

**ASRED:** Ron Brown

**SRDC/MSU:** Rachel Welborn, Russ Garner

**1. Welcome and Introductions of New Members:**

New members were welcomed, and everyone introduced themselves. Mitzi complemented all who had been involved in the conference.

**2. Brief overview of PLC Representative Expectations:**

Mitzi briefly reviewed the PLC Representative Expectations, and the importance of them. She stressed the need for members to attend the Fall Planning Meeting in Atlanta, and if unable to attend, to designate someone from that member's committee to represent the committee's interests and to help plan for the 2020 PLN Conference.

**3. PLC Conference Call Schedule for 2019-20:**

The conference call schedule was discussed, and members were asked to review the dates to see if they were agreeable to the group. Current schedule is 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Central Time, on the third Thursday of the month:

- a. October 17
- b. February 20
- c. April 16
- d. June 18
- e. July 16

Time of the Fall Planning Meeting was discussed. Leslie discussed that November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> were the dates that were the most open for everyone and asked the group to review their calendars. The group was agreeable to that date, and Leslie noted that the meeting would begin at 1:00 pm EST on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and conclude at 12:00 noon EST on the 21<sup>st</sup>, in Atlanta. These dates and location will be relayed to Vicki Vaughn/Samantha Clardy for logistical planning.

It was noted that we will also review the evaluations from the 2019 PLN Conference to help better understand the thoughts and suggestions of the attendees. Another subject that was presented was the need for a graphic designer, and a request that if any in the group had anyone in their shop that could do that type of work, to let the group know.

#### **4. Action and Accomplishment Items Preview:**

The group reviewed the Action and Accomplishments slides that each committee submitted.

Agriculture and Natural Resources wished to create a hemp workgroup. Opinion from the group was favorable, with no additional comments.

The Communications committee's Action (with IT collaboration) involved setting up a regional American Disabilities Act (ADA) training at LSU. The Middle Manager representatives mentioned that they had gone through a less intensive ADA training, and it was recommended that COM and MM connect on this issue.

Family and Consumer Sciences' Action there was concern over the maintenance of interagency agreements and the request that a joint letter from ASRED and AEA be sent to Scott Angle noting concern and offering assistance where needed. Dr. Brown noted that this was a very reasonable thing to bring this before ASRED/AEA, and that it was important that programs do not need to fade away. He noted that currently, Dr. Angle's two priorities were to get people hired, and to grant funding out to where it's needed. It was noted to check with the other committees to see if there are any other needs to express to NIFA.

Accomplishments by each of the committees was also reviewed.

#### **5. Officers for 2019-20 PLC Representatives:**

It was noted that we had two positions to fill on PLC, the Vice Chair, and the ANR/CRD/FCS/4H Representative to the Executive Committee.

Leslie nominated Lisa Stearns to the office of Vice Chair. Lisa accepted the nomination, and the committee approved it.

After discussion of what the position entails, Michael Gutter was appointed ANR/CRD/FCS/4H Representative to the Executive Committee.

## 6. Finalize Plan of Work:

After a brief discussion, the committee decided to leave the Plan of Work as is.

- a. Plan 2020 Conference
- b. Newcomer Orientation
- c. Chair Training

## 7. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

### Meeting was adjourned

### PLC Presentation of Actions and Accomplishments to ASRED/AEA, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

Mitzi and Leslie presented to the Joint meeting of ASRED and AEA the Actions and Accomplishments of the PLN committees. Below are the three actions requested:

#### Agriculture & Natural Resources:

**Action Requested:** Create a Southern Region Industrial Hemp Extension workgroup to encourage specialists and agents to collaborate and share resources.

**Response:** Dr. Brown recommended that the group move towards the establishment of a SERA group. Wording request was amended to such. Action request was granted.

#### Communications:

**Action Requested:** Approval for a regional training with one SRPLN institutional communications and/or IT representatives to attend ADA and 508 compliance face-to-face workshop on LSU campus to gain train-the-trainer skills that can be utilized to deliver these compliance trainings to Extension professionals at home institutions.

**Response:** Dr. Williams mentioned LSU's work in this, and the group commended the committee for thinking of this. Action request was granted.

#### Family and Consumer Sciences:

**Action Requested:** A request that a joint letter from ASRED and AEA to director Scott Angle requesting prompt and quick replacement of vacancies in this division, and consideration for adding additional, possibly temporary, National Program Leader (NPL) positions in hospitality and tourism, and rural health disparities (mental health, financial management, opioid abuse, etc.). In addition, a request that this letter also addresses the need to renew and continue the funding ties with the Department of Defense for the military learning families network which ends in 2020. Similar consideration should be given to other interagency agreements that support funding for Extension FCS related programming.



**Response:** After discussion, it was recommended to send two letters from ASRED/AEA to Dr. Angle. One letter expressing interest in the prompt and quick replacement of vacancies in the division, and consideration for adding additional, possibly temporary, National Program Leader (NPL) positions in hospitality and tourism, and rural health disparities (mental health, financial management, opioid abuse, etc.). The letter would also offer help with the interagency agreements until NIFA is fully staffed.

The other letter, in addition to requesting the need to renew and continue funding ties with the Department of Defense for the military learning families network, would also urge similar consideration of other interagency agreements that support funding for all Extension-related programming.

Action request was granted.