

JCEP
Joint Council of Extension Professionals
Wednesday, October 21, 2020
Virtual Zoom Meeting

JCEP was called to order by Chairman Greg Comer at 3:00 EDT on October 21, 2020. The following were in attendance: Greg Comer, Cathy Weaver, Lisa Hagman, Kim Leonberger, Turquoise Brown, Courtney Jenkins, Jeremy Teal, Kevin Lyons, LeChrista Finn, Brooke Jenkins, Judi O'Bryan, Natalie Taul, Melissa Goodman, Dana Anderson, Mindy McCulley, Amanda Hardy, Sherri Farley and Sally Mineer.

Minutes from the December 2019 were presented and approved. Motion by Courtney Jenkins and seconded by Lisa Hagman. Motion passed.

Association reports were given by the following:

KASEP-President Kim Leonberger reported that KASEP did a have a spring virtual business meeting and elected the new officers and gave awards. They are moving forward and will have fall meeting on November 13 virtually.

KEAFCS-President Melissa Goodman reported they will host their state meeting over several days the week of November 16th with a business and awards program on November 20th. They are encouraging for areas to meeting safely together for the Friday meeting in person. They currently have 101 paid members.

KAE-4H – Dana Anderson reported they have met a few times virtually over the summer as an association and presented awards. Their national meeting was happening this week and several agents were attending from Kentucky virtually. The association will have a board meeting in the first of December and they are planning to meet in person in Pikeville for their annual meeting in the spring of 2021. The newest item they are working on is to create a scholarship to award to a high school student from the association.

ESP-Jeremy Teal President stated they did meet in the spring virtually to conduct their annual meeting and in-service training. The national conference was planned for Rochester New York and was moved to a virtual platform. Kentucky had the largest delegation in attendance of 34 members attending. The chapter was recognized as Platinum Chapter.

Jennifer Bridge received DSA at the national level. The 2021 annual meeting/in service is planned for March 29th and 30th.

KACCA-Courtney Jenkins reported they have 113 members and both their state and national meetings switched to virtual platforms after Covid hit. They are planning an in person board meeting for December 10th.

Current officer for each association-were announced and see attachment for the list.

Dr. Laura Stephens Associate Dean for Extension joined the group for a Q & A session.

First question asked was about the format of Report to the People-agents said they report this year is limited to stock photos and only 3 stories per county which is hard if you have more than 3 program

area agents that would like to share. Agents feel like people want to see local people in events and they should be allowed to use their own photos. Dr. Stephenson did explain that with the retirement of Pam Sigler new people were helping with the report this year. She is going to talk with Program and Staff Development and get back with answers.

Next question was about wanting a more consistent message about how offices/meetings should be handled in relationship to Covid-19.

Dr. Stephenson said she always wants to keep employees safe and offices should work with local health departments and county judges to establish guidelines for meetings and activities in line with UK office operations guidance.

The Extension offices should be a visible presence in the community during this unprecedented time. This is important not only for our clientele now, but also for the future of the Cooperative Extension Service. District Directors should work with counties to give flexibility when the virus numbers are high or situations occur with staff being sick or exposed. District Directors have the authority to work with counties in regard to scheduling meetings and activities to address county needs and current levels of concern. Program leader's role is to develop specific guidelines for specialized programming. However, the decision how to proceed with local programming is at the discretion of the district directors based on the local situation.

Dr. Stephenson responded to a chat question about clarifying the difference between campus staff and county staff with regard to working environments. Because we are trying to protect the campus community (students and those directly related) as much as possible, campus level staff, who do not have direct responsibility for teaching or other interactions with students, are encouraged to work remotely. County level staff are encouraged to maintain a working presence that is visible to the community with proper safety measure in place to protect county level staff and clientele.

Question asked when the new Area Directors are hired and if that leaves agent vacancy will they replace those agent positions quickly? She responded she would love for that to happen but with current budget restrictions she will need to move slowly. She also wants to work on starting salary and view the current compression salary issue to make comprehensive budget plans. This includes review of the career ladder as a tool to decrease compression. She has someone working on those numbers now.

Question-can we work more fluid with KSU and be seen as one unit in Extension. Dr. Stephenson is meeting regularly with Dr. Owens and they have similar goals and vision for Extension. New opportunities and funding at KSU have exciting potential for future partnerships.

State Extension Conference is still being planned for December 2021. They are working on several plans or how that might work if we are still dealing with Covid. Committee members are being identified and will be announced by end of the year.

Everyone thanked Dr. Stephenson for her time and work.

Other Business:

County Judges Breakfast-Greg will check with Nick Carter if they have a meeting planned and will associations be sponsoring a breakfast.

Sally will work on getting the JCEP website updated.

National JCEP meeting will be held February 10-12, 2021. PILD will meet April 11-14, 2021. If you are interested in submitting proposals please review the website.

Greg will work LeChrista Finn in trying to schedule Dr. Owens from KSU for the December meeting.

Courtney Jenkins made the motion to adjourn. Dana Anderson seconded. Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted:

Sally Mineer
JCEP Secretary