

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION
34TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
September 21, 2007
RAMADA PLAZA RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
KILL DEVIL HILLS, NORTH CAROLNA

President, Donna Fulp, called the 34th Annual Business Meeting of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Secretaries Association to order.

President, Donna Fulp, asked for approval of the agenda. Ann Pridgen made a motion to approve these agenda and Sheila Ange, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Donna Thanked the NE District for a fantastic job.

Christine Barrier, Parliamentarian, declared a quorum of the membership is present in order for you to conduct business of this session.

Approval of the minutes from September 2006

Teresa Story, Secretary stated that the minutes were posted on the web. Does anyone have any questions or revisions? Motion to approve the minutes as posted on the web made by Sandra Stafford. Jean Sigmon seconded the motion. Motion passed to approve minutes as posted to the web.

Roll Call:

Northeast – 26	South Central - 22
Southeast – 25	Campus - 14
West 8	Northwest - 20
North Central – 27	Southwest – 28

District Reports:

NORTHEAST: MarySue Wright-Baker, President

The Northeast District has a membership of 28 paid members. The spring meeting was held on May 17, 2007 at the Ramada Plaza Resort & Conference Center in Kill Devil Hills. There were 23 members in attendance. Our secretaries were welcomed by Donna Hanusik, Extension Secretary from Dare County. A tour of the facility was conducted by Jamie Chisholm, Sales Manager for the Ramada. We were shown the conference facilities, restaurant and two types of guest rooms.

Following the tour, our business meeting began with comments from Dr. Russell King, NE District Director, shared via email since he could not be with us.

Committee reports were then given. Highlights included the following: The membership Committee shared congratulations to Natalie Wayne, Hyde County on the birth of her child. This committee also distributed revised versions of the "Let's Get Acquainted" book. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers to take office October 1, 2007. Officers installed are: President-Sheila Ange; 1st VP – Teresa Story; 2nd VP Wendy Paschal; Secretary- Amy Twiddy; Treasurer-Belinda Belch; Advisor-MarySue Wright-Baker.

The Finance Committee distributed a donation list of funds received for hosting of the 2007 state meeting.

The 2006-2007 Camp Scholarship was awarded to Chowan County due to our alphabetic rotation schedule. The Secretary of the Year award was presented to Teresa Story, Perquimans County. She received a plaque and a check for \$75.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to planning for the 2007 State meeting.

Secretaries sampled the Seaside Salad buffet for lunch which we had for lunch yesterday.

Membership changes include: Natalie Wayne, Hyde County has moved into the 4-H agent position and been replaced by Connie Burlison. New hires include: Stacy Morin, Pasquotank County and Carol Haywood, Pitt County. We also have two retired members that are now deceased – Jackie Jernigan, Hertford County and Denise Lamb, Pasquotank County.

The first Southern Regional Support Planning Meeting was held on July 13 at the Burke County Center in Morganton. Four NE District Secretaries were in attendance with Dr. Mitch Owen leading the group in the process of organization. Interim officers were elected and committees set: By-Laws, Meeting & Planning, Mission Statement, Budget & Finance, and Nominating.

On August 17, two Northeast District secretaries traveled to Fayetteville in Cumberland County for the Horn of Plenty. They assisted other district secretaries with the beverage tables during the County Commissioners Annual Meeting.

Our final planning meeting was held on August 22 in Martin County to finalize plans for the 2007 state meeting. We are excited to finally host the meeting with hopes that everyone will be "Walking on Sunshine". It has been 21 years since we have hosted the State meeting.

And finally the Northeast District Fall meeting will be hosted by Northampton County on October 5, 2007.

Southeast District – Lin Nichols, President

The members of the Southeast District Secretaries Association have had two meetings since our last state meeting.

We held our spring meeting in Greene County on April 20, 2007 and were warmly welcomed by the secretaries. New secretaries were introduced and welcomed aboard. The dues were adjusted to meet the dues that were increased last year at the State meeting. The lunchtime speaker was the Mayor of Snow Hill, Mr. Don Davis who talked about the rejuvenation of Snow Hill with stress on its historic district and the growth of tourism. The remainder of the meeting was consumed with plans for hosting the State Secretaries Association meeting in Wilmington in 2008.

The fall meeting was held in Jones County on August 17, 2007. We were welcomed by the Jones County secretaries, and formally by Tina Meadows, the Jones County Finance Officer. She too talked about the growth of tourism and the positive impact it was having on the Jones County towns. New secretaries were welcomed and announcements made. Old and new business continued to be consumed with the excitement of planning to host the State Secretaries Association Meeting in Wilmington in 2008. After lunch, new officers were installed for a two-year term starting October 1st 2008 in a sweet ceremony planned and performed by past president, Pam Brylow. Pam Brylow got the Secretary of the Year award. We were also excited to receive a visit during our meeting from Dr. Ort who was introduced by Jones County Extension Director, Ivy Reid. He had very kind words of praise and encouragement to say to the Southeast District Secretaries and we, as always, enjoyed his visit.

West: Susanne Winebarger, President

The West District Cooperative Extension Secretaries Association currently has 29 paid members.

Our spring district meeting was held in Madison County on April 27. Eighteen members were present, including two new secretaries. One topic of discussion during our business meeting was how to help our district association grow. After the business meeting and lunch, we went on a tour of Madison County center's new facility where local farmers come to handle, process, market and manage crops and other value-added products.

Our fall district meeting was held in Haywood County on August 17. Twenty members were present, including two new secretaries. A planning committee was formed for the state meeting that our district is scheduled to host in 2010. Jean Miller from Henderson County was presented with the Secretary of the Year award. Debbie Sparks from Buncombe County is currently working on our district association website. The following officers were installed for 2007-2008:

President – Susanne Winebarger, Watauga County
1st Vice President – Norma Chrisawn, Yancey County
2nd Vice President – Susan Dotson, Transylvania County
Secretary – Janice Dotson, District Office
Treasurer – Elaine Clamser, Henderson County

We were scheduled to take a tour of Haywood County's new justice center after lunch but had to cancel due to our business meeting running later than expected.

Reflection Committee: Melissa Lynch, DVD set to 9 to 5 by Dolly Parton, Great show with a good assortment of secretaries doing their very varied jobs.

North Central – Elizabeth Wilson President

The North Central District Secretaries Association met for our spring meeting on May 11, 2007. Wake County hosted our meeting at the Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church and concluding with lunch at the Gold Leaf Tea Room.

We had 34 members in attendance. We also have 1 new member that also attended. Janet VanJaarsveld called the meeting to order. Sandra Stafford, 2nd Vice President gave the through the day and read “Dare to Dream” by Ralph Mariston. Elizabeth Wilson, 1st Vice President introduced and welcomed guest at our meeting. Each Committee chairman gave a committee report. Linda Creech gave our treasurer's report that was effective from February through May 2007.

The Fuquay Varina Fire Department spoke to us about “Fire Safety in the Home”. Officers from the Fire Department presented a display representing the rooms in the house. They explained hazards in the home that could be corrected and precautions that could be implemented before an accident occurred. Key points that were made are “Fire Prevention in the Home”, “Children's Safety”, and “Home Safety”.

We had 2 members (Faye Black and Martha Smith from Wake Co.) to attend the Chi Epsilon Sigma Sorority meeting in Kentucky. They stated that they had a good meeting with members and shared ideas and plans from each group that will enhance and further promote the strength of the proposed Regional and National Cooperative Extension Secretaries. In addition, we had 3 representatives from the North Central District to attend the initial planning session for the new Regional Organization that was held July 13, 2007 in Burke County.

Elizabeth Wilson presented the 2007 Secretary of the Year award to Janet VanJaarsveld. Juliette Shipley installed the new officers for the 2007-2008 year. They are as follows:
Elizabeth Wilson (Johnston County) – President
Sandra Stafford (Franklin County) – 1st Vice President
Martha Smith (Wake County) – 2nd Vice President
Gwen Hernandez (Granville County)- Secretary
Linda Creech (Wilson County) – Treasurer
Janet VanJaarsveld (Franklin County) – Advisor

An invitation from Wilson County Secretaries was extended to the membership to attend the Fall Meeting in Wilson County.

South Central – Katherine C. Morton

The South Central District Spring meeting was hosted by Bladen County on March 23, 2007 at Lu Mil Vineyards in Duplin, NC Phillip Little, Chief Deputy of the Bladen County Sheriff's Department, spoke to the association about Self Defense for Women. Sunday Allen, Lu Mil Vineyard Tour guide gave the group a tour of the vineyard and told us what was involved in the production of grapes and wine.

Two secretaries, Kim Gibson and Kay Morton from our district were delegates to the Extension Support Personnel Association in Mobile, Alabama to recruit support for a regional secretaries association.

Four secretaries, Leeann Crump, Kay Morton, Devona Beard and Kim Gibson attended the organizational meeting for the regional secretaries association held at the Burke County Extension Center in Morganton, NC on July 13, 2007. From this organizational meeting, the Southeast Regional Extension and Research Support Staff Association was formed. We are quite proud of this accomplishment for NCCESA!

South Central District is pleased to announce the addition of two new secretaries in our district. Debbie Humphrey has joined the Robeson County staff and Pam Layfield has joined the Anson County staff.

The South Central District Fall meeting was hosted by Chatham County on August 31, 2007 at the Chatham County Extension Center. Dr. Sue Campeau, Campeau Chiropractic PC, was guest speaker. She talked about how to deal with stress. Mr. Steve Lawson with SEANC spoke on the association and what it can do for you. Secretary of the year award was awarded to Susan Johnson of Cumberland County.

The following slate of new officers were installed at our fall meeting:

President: Leann Crump
1st Vice President: Susan Graham
2nd Vice President: Susan Johnson
Secretary: Angie Priest
Treasurer: Nan Rackley
Advisor: Kay Morton

Campus - Susan Brame, President –

The Campus Chapter currently has 25 paid members. Our first meeting of the association year was held in Ricks Hall on October 11, 2006. The meeting was devoted to reorganization of our committees and meeting structure.

On December 8, 2006, Susan Brame and Tracy Brown attended the Federation Forum in Lee County as part of the NCCESA delegation

A Holiday Celebration event was held on December 18, 2006, at Brickhaven. We enjoyed a wonderful meal and fun activities including the Snowman version of Bingo and a gift exchange game. Members also brought toys to donate to the Toys-For-Tots drive.

As part of the outreach effort to gain support for a regional association, Tracy Brown and Susan Brame, along with Kay Morton and Kim Gibson from the South Central District, attended the Alabama State Meeting held in May.

Our next meeting was held on April 20th at the Brickhaven Building. Our guest speaker was Wade Harris of PHASE II Personal Training Centers. His topic was “Working for a Healthier You”. The Secretary of the Year Award was presented to Donna Warren.

The Annual Picnic was held on June 12 at Lake Wheeler. Special guests for the event were retired Charter Members, Helen Miller and Mariah McPherson, along with Kay Evans, all from Orange County. Helen and Mariah did a presentation on the history of our association.

Tracy Brown attended the organization meeting for the Southeast Regional Extension Support Staff Association on July 13 in Burke County and was elected to serve as Webmaster. On August 10 the Campus Chapter met at the Arboretum. Mr. Ralph Whisnant presented a program on the Arboretum and due to the extreme heat; we went on a “virtual” tour. The 2007-2008 officers were installed. They are:

President – Tracy Brown

First Vice President – Charlotte Simpson

Second Vice President – Evelyn Stahling

Secretary – Karla Frizzelle

Treasurer – Donna Stewart

Advisor – Susan Brame

Northwest: Alice Pennix

The Northwest has realized phenomenal growth this year with the addition of 4 members for an increase of 9 % over last year. This increased our membership to 40 members. Our spring meeting was held May 18, 2007 in Surry County we were treated to an educational forum given by one of our Ag agents, Michael Wilson, his topic “Top plants for Summer Color”. He also discussed butterflies and their benefits to our environment. Not only are they beautiful and somewhat scarce but we can do a lot to invite them to our environment. On 8-31 2007 our fall meeting was hosted by the secretaries in Surry county who did a wonderful job of educating us to the riches of the region. Those beautiful granite countertops in our homes may come from Mt Airy, as it is the granite capital of the world. We were also given an extensive history of Mt. Airy and one of North Carolina’s favorite sons Andy Griffith. Not only do most of us know him from his show but we also learned he is an only child and very talented and plays many instruments. The most amazing thing about him is he did not wait for opportunity he created most of them by seeking out people who could provide instructions for what they wanted to learn. We can all take a lesson from that making our own opportunities is

sometimes a way to learn and retain what we want to know. I was a representative at the July 13 meeting to help to form the first Regional secretaries association. I was very privileged to represent this organization. I was also invited to SC where I attended their state meeting.

We have had 4 new secretaries join our organization this year. They are Donna Holland, Tiffany Slade, Vivian Smith and Anita Wright, all of NCA&T. Donna Bun Gardner installed the officers for the 2007-2008 year. She also invited us to Wilkes County, as they will host the spring meeting of the NW Secretaries Association.

Southwest – Joyce Dorsey

On April 13, 2007 Southwest District secretaries met for the spring meeting in Alexander County. We had a total of thirty in attendance. The community project decided upon by the Association was to contribute \$1000 to the CaringBridge website in honor of Robin Rogers, wife of Alexander County CED, who was fighting a courageous battle with cancer. (She has since died.) CaringBridge is a website that operates on donations and is for those with an extended illness. It makes it possible for the family and the one who is ill to correspond with everyone without having so many phone calls. The website is open to family and friends as well as the ill person to post journals.

A program was presented on the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer which will be held in October. Fran Little, Administrative Secretary and First Vice-President will walk 36 miles as a representative of the Southwest District Secretaries Association.

August took us to Cabarrus County for our fall meeting. We had a total of 35 in attendance. A surprise wedding shower was given to Becky Troutman of Cabarrus County. We also held a white elephant silent auction to raise money to help sponsor Fran Little in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. A total of \$186 was raised. New officers were installed for the upcoming year and Dana Braswell of Union County was presented with the Secretary of the Year award.

The Southwest District Treasurer received \$1964.29 and spent \$1960.17 on dues, CaringBridge donation, professional improvement, retirement celebrations and Secretary of the Year Award. The money market account earned \$515.63 in dividends and had a withdrawal of \$1000.00 for the CaringBridge donation. The share account earned \$.52 in interest. All accounts are up to date and were audited on September 13, 2007. Everything was found to be in order from August 18, 2006 until present.

This year the Southwest District received photos from several counties on District meetings, state meetings, county events, District Community Service days and personal events.

We began spotlighting secretaries in our district each month on our website, complete with questionnaire and photos of the secretary and their families.

Photos were submitted to Melissa Lynch for the State meeting slideshow.

Secretaries from the Southwest did attend the Planning meeting for the regional association.

Financial Report: Gloria Artis

The only change is that check #596 was voided.

Kay Williams made a motion to accept financial report as presented. Wendy Paschal seconded the motion. Financial report was accepted.

Standing Committee reports.

Finance- Gloria Artis: presented the proposed budget

Donna thanked Gloria for all her hard work this year.

Motion to accept proposed budget was made by Alice Pennix, and seconded by Kay Williams. Proposed budget accepted.

Membership: Sue Ward Vicky Merritt has something to add to the Membership report I if she will come up please. Vicky: Many of you have asked about Cheryl Tripp. Cheryl is the administrative secretary in Halifax County, who was on her way here Thursday morning and had an accident. She was taken to Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City and Donald Cobb and I went down there yesterday to check on her and she is at home now I am happy to report. She is a very fortunate young lady. Just keep her and her family in your prayers. I talked to her just a few minutes ago when I was asked to give an update to make sure she was ok with my reporting. She said to tell you all that she really hated that she missed being here with you. If you would like to send her an e-mail you can go to the Halifax County site and you will see her name there. She wanted me to relay to all of you that she would like for you to please be careful going home especially if you are in unfamiliar areas and she wants to thank you for your prayers.

Campus has 25 active members and 12 honorary members

Northeast has 28 active members which is 100%; 13 retirees and 11 honorary

North Central has 34 active members

Northwest 36 active members

South Central 42 active members

Southeast 39 active members; 20 retirees; 6 honorary and 4 charter

Southwest 32 active members which is 100%; 16 honorary and 32 charter

Total 236 total members

The new members

Northeast: Carol Haywood, Pitt County; Stacy Morin, Pasquotank County; and Connie Burleson, Hyde County

South Central: Sandy Ruble, Granville County

Northwest: Donna Holland, Anita Wright, Vivian Smith and Tiffany Slade
South Central: Debbie Humphrey, Robeson County; Pam Lay field, Anson County; Jean Newsome, Cumberland County
Southeast: Cindy Day, Carteret County; Emily Walter, Duplin County; Casey Spivey, Wayne County
Southwest: Brenda Street, Lincoln County and Kelly Pierce, Iredell County

We have had two members that have passed away Denise Lamb from Pasquotank County and Jackie Jernigan from Hertford County. We have been asked to have a moment of silence in remembrance for these two that have passed away.

All new members please stand.

Nominating Committee: Wendy Paschal

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the nominating committee for their efforts and assistance to select a slate of officers for the upcoming year. We had a busy year with two positions that were very popular.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers to serve the NCCESA for the next year.

President – Janet VanJaarsveld, Franklin County, NC District
1st Vice President – Carol Horne, Rutherford County, SW District
2nd Vice President – Pamela Brylow, Jones County, SE District
Secretary - Rhonda Gaster, Lee County, SC District
Treasurer – Cathy Harvey, Onslow County, SE District
Advisor – Donna Fulp, Rockingham County, NW District

These ladies have graciously accepted the call to serve our State Association as officers. I'd like to extend my gratitude to them for being willing to lead our Association.

Motion to accept the slate of officers was made by Vickie Pettit and seconded by Faye Black. Motion passed to accept the slate of officers as presented.

Professional Improvement: Ginger McGhee (will give report later when Award Winners are announced)

Public Relations – No report

Rules and By-Laws – No Report

Special Committee Reports;

Federation – Christine Barrier: Federation Board will meet again this year on October 3 at Brickhaven Building. This year's president is Dr. Rhonda Sherman, representing the

Specialists Association. The Federal Forum will be in Kannapolis this year on December 14 and we will be including a tour of the North Carolina Research Campus. The rest you guys can read in the minutes. (What I would really like to do is to take a minute to say thank you for allowing me to represent you through this association through the federation. You girls' rock I am just going to tell you you are out there; you are doing it; you are moving and you're shaking. Many of you start out as caregivers first thing in the morning to husbands, children, parents sometimes all three groups. Then you go to the office and you are their for 8, 9, 10 hours not including the night meetings and then you are the caregiver again the next morning you get up and start all over. But in amongst all of that you take time for yourself. You are out there getting that CPS, that CAP certificate, getting those associates, those bachelors, those masters degrees; and I understand there is one of you that is working on a doctorate. I just think that is phenomenal. You are doing it for yourself. When I go to JCEP and PILD I am very proud to share with people from all over the United States what North Carolina secretaries are doing, especially since we are leading the way in the formation of the Regional association. You are absolutely the best at what you do and I can just thank you for letting me be a part of it.)

JCEP – Southern Region/PILD

Joint Commission of Extension Professionals; held January 31 – February 2, 2007 in Nashville, Tenn. Approximately 125 Extension representatives from 13 states in the Southern Region were in attendance. “Internationalizing Extension Service” was the conference focus, relating to how Extension interacts in other countries, helping us take steps toward a global future. Special emphasis was given to the growing Latino population in the United States, primarily in the southern region.

Representing Federation and NCCESA, my primary purpose was to learn new marketing strategies and collect information regarding support staff associations in the Southern Region. Thirty (30) persons of interest from ten (10) states were acknowledged and shared with our President and the Outreach Committee as those who may have interest in establishing an association or exchanging delegations during annual conferences.

PILD-Public Issues Leadership Development

PILD, Public Issues Leadership Development Conference, is sponsored by JCEP and was held April 23-25, 2007 in Arlington, Virginia. This year's focus is “Connectivity: Community to the Capitol” and provided an opportunity for interaction with federal decision-makers and local Advisory Council volunteers in order to keep Extension aware of public concerns affecting our communities and Extension programming.

One afternoon of the conference is specially designed for a “Legislative Reception” in the Capitol building sponsored by NCSU-NCCES through Dr. Ort's direction and is coordinated by Robbie Furr, 4-H Agent in Mecklenburg and EPS Vice-President, and hosted by the North Carolina delegation. This year, I had the pleasure of meeting Gloria Collette from West Virginia, who was also attending PILD in order to collect information regarding the formation of a regional/national support staff association. Ms. Collette is

presently serving as Treasurer of SRERSSA- Southeast Regional Extension and Research Support Staff Association, organized July 13, 2007 in Burke County.

Horn of Plenty

Extension-sponsored “Horn of Plenty” Dinner was held in Fayetteville on August 17 at the Cumberland County Civic Center. Approximately 700 county commissioners and their families, along with other municipal-related participants enjoyed North Carolina produces for their evening meal. Serving beverages and representing NCCESA were Devona Beard, MarySue Wright-Baker, Teresa Story, Debbie Boost (Cabarrus CED), Tracy Brown, Kay Morton, Rhonda Gaster and Christine Barrier.

Change Management-Core Team/Marketing Director Search Committee
Change Management team is presently in a “holding patten” according to Extension Administration in case further issues should arise.

Marketing Director for Extension (NCSU and A&T), Chrystal Bartlett, joined the organization Monday, February 12, 2007.

Submitted by Christine Barrier
NCFCEA President-Elect

Staff Senate – Jane McDaniel, Southwest District

I will be serving on Staff Senate representing District 14B for the next two years. Also serving as staff senators from district 14B from our association are Jean Sigmon from Northampton County and Melanie Storey from Hertford County.

I would also like to recognize our retired senators, Kathy Harvey from Onslow County, she served for four years. And Carol Horne from Rutherford County served for two years. I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the NCCESA and all SPA employees.

Staff Senate represents all SPA and non-faculty EPA employees and serve as an advisory body to the Chancellor. The meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month in the Faculty Senate Chambers at the D.H. Hill Library. The Senate is made up of the following standing committees: Human Resources, Governance, Diversity, Public Relations, Resources and Environment, and Legislative.

A Staff Senate Retreat was held on July 7, 2007 at the McKimmon Center, NC State University. The retreat provided the opportunity for new and returning senators to have a better understanding of how the senate operates.

Jean, Melanie and I serve on the Human Resources committee.

Hot Topics for this year include:

1. The possibility of adding family members to the tuition waiver program.

Upcoming events include:

1. A University Budget Forum will be held on October 8, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm in 2215 Williams Hall. The annual event is open to everyone. This is an excellent opportunity to learn everything you always wanted to know about NC State's budget, but was afraid to ask!
2. The 2007 Open Forum will be held on October 11 at 9:00 a.m. until Noon at Witherspoon Cinema. If you are unable to attend these events and have questions or concerns please send your requests to Jean, Melanie or me.

I would also like to remind everyone about the computer loan program. A computer will be loaned to employees in pay grade 59 or below or who earn less than \$36,000. Computers may be loaned out for a period of one year.

2007 Horn of Plenty:

For any new members, The Horn of Plenty is a buffet style meal that Extension hosts for all statewide county commissioners during their state meeting on Friday afternoon. Extension uses this event to show the county commissioners our appreciation for their support of Cooperative Extension. We showcase food that is grown and raised in North Carolina, even alligator and bear. This year the event was held in Cumberland Count in the Crown Coliseum on August 17th. Approximately 700 people were served. Our association was in charge of lemonade, tea and water. We had two stations manned by association members, please stand – Kay Morton and Rhonda Gaster, Lee County; Kim Gibson, Montgomery County; MarySue Wright-Baker, Currituck County; Teresa Story, Perquimans County; Christine Barrier, Cabarrus County; Mel Stoss, Campus; myself and three County Directors assisted also – Dalton Dockery, Bladen County, Debbie Bost, Cabarrus County and Al Height, Brunswick County and Tracy Brown was helping with the over-all event. Other secretaries assisted in different areas of the event. If you are here please stand and be recognized for your hard work in making this event so successful. The County Commissioners always look forward to this and see this as a highlight of their state meeting. Our association is a vital part of making the Horn of Plenty a success and networking with our county partners in marketing Extension. Respectfully submitted, Devona Beard, Bladen County

Outreach Committee – Leeann Crump

As a result of months of excited e-mail messaging, teleconferencing, personal networking and long road miles traveled, a vision this association has had for some time was realized. Through the years, many have hoped for it. Some have worked at it. All will benefit from it. SRERSSA – Southeast Regional Extension & Research Support Staff Association was officially organized July 13, 2007 in Burke County, NC. Gathered together that day were 30 representatives from Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina,

North Carolina and West Virginia along with Dr. Mitch Owens, Director of PODS, who facilitated the planning meeting?

Spirits were high, the goal was clear, and by the end of that historic day interim officers were chosen and committees established. The mission statement reads: "SRERSSA will improve the lives and careers of members by providing one voice to improve the development of Extension and Research across the Southern Region through professional recognition, networking with states, administration advocacy, and professional and personal improvement."

This past year our present state association president, Donna Fulp, generously shared with our constituency the many e-mailed conversations pertaining to the formation of a regional association, keeping us informed of progress made, while building an expectation within us all that the creation of such an association was definitely in our very near future. Donna was a driving force behind the quick turnaround of events this year; it is fitting she now holds the interim President's position in the newly formed regional association.

Thank you Dr. Zublena for suggesting an anticipated timeline of 5 years to complete our mission; you helped us define set perimeters and challenged us to step up to the plate; the goal was more quickly achievable than any of us realized. Administrative support from both Drs. Zublena and Ort for these efforts was outstanding in every way. No other state secretaries association has leadership like we do. They allowed us to do what needed to be done, while grounding us with their broader vision.

Thanks also goes to those in past leadership positions within our association who originated the vision years ago. They invested in present and future leadership with the ultimate goal always in sight.

We appreciate so much Co-Chair, Tracy Brown, Alice Pennix, Ann Pridgen, Elizabeth Wilson, Fran Little, Sheila Griffis, Shelia Ange, Tracy Vogler, all District 1st VP's who served on the Outreach Committee this year, giving of their valuable time and ideas beginning way back last fall when all we had was a "can do" attitude.

Appreciation also is extended to the three delegations who traveled long miles to out of state meetings in Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina and Kentucky in order to network for support of a regional association. They represented us well!

A lot of work; a lot of fun; and the adventure's just begun! The committees formed at the regional planning meeting have already accomplished much in anticipation of our first regional meeting sometime next year.

Building a stronger Extension for the future means building better people. The 2006-07 Outreach Committee appreciates being a small part of helping organize and expand our borders. We now have the opportunity for greater associations, which will ultimately professionally improve us all.

Announcement of Award Winners

Ginger McGhee:

The Professional Improvement Committee had the honor of being involved in two of the awards that were given last night. The first one is the

Dr. Jon and Mrs. Debbie Ort Scholarship Award for Outstanding Cooperative Extension Personnel

Christine Barrier – Cabarrus County

Christine received a \$200 award and plaque

Professional Improvement Scholarship

Wendy Paschal – Pitt County

Wendy received a \$500 scholarship

Janet VanJaarsveld presented the Executive Board Award at the Banquet to Donna Fulp. She received a plaque and a \$200 check.

Donna Fulp presented the Sue Mills Lighthouse Award to Kay Williamson Kay has done so much in her county, in her professional life and her personal life and I would like to thank Kay personally. Kay you are very deserving of this award.

The Awards of Excellence Awards

Technology Utilization and Implementation Category –

North Central – Tonya Wingate

Northwest – Michelle H. Ham – State Winner

South Central – Nanetta Rackley

Southwest – Jane McDaniel

Special Leadership Category –

Campus Chapter – Rhonda Thrower

North Central – Kaye Ward

Northwest – Ginger McGhee

South Central – Linda Brulet

Southeast – Jo Strobush

Southwest – Christine Barrier

West – Isabelle Cable – State Winner

Old Business – None

New Business:

Herter O'Neal Scholarship Changes – Sandy Kanupp

Carole Horne formed this committee at the request of Donna Fulp. The purpose of the committee was to discuss this scholarship and the issues surrounding the fact that it has not been awarded in the last two years. The committee makes the following recommendations that the scholarship be increased to \$750.00; that the scholarship be given to a community college student pursuing or planning to pursue an Associate degree in business or a business-related field; that the scholarship be offered statewide each year; specific outline of communication/responsibilities be available; and a packet of material be online for the ones working with the scholarship.

Any discussion to the proposed changes. The money has not been used for the last two years. There is not a separate fund for this scholarship. Motion to accept the proposed changes to the Herter O'Neal Scholarship committee made by Tracy Brown, 2nd by Nancy Miller.

Honorary Membership Nomination –

We have two nominations this year Pearl Blount, Anson County has served on numerous committees, helped establish this organization, 2005 Secretary of the Year, and this honorary membership is most appropriate for someone who has strong ties to the association. Motion to accept Pearl Blount as an honorary member. Kay Morton, Lee County, 2nd Susan Brame, Campus Motion carried to accept Pearl Blount as an honorary member.

Thetas Williams from Robeson, Charter member of assoc. with assoc 34 years served on numerous committees she is a charter member. Motion to accept Thetis Williams as honorary member. Janice Dotson made motion, Susan Graham 2nd the motion carried to accept Thetis Williams as honorary member

SERESSA: Not going to spend a lot of time. We have all worked hard to get it going. We have a planning committee working on our first meeting. Do not have a time line yet but are looking at Tennessee. Devona Beard is chair of that planning committee. Would you please stand when I call your name so that everyone will know who is on a committee. By-Laws: Carol Horne, Jean Sigmon, Melanie Storey, Teresa Story, Melissa Lynch, Tracy Brown, Faye Black, Martha Smith
Meeting & Planning: Devona Beard, Chair; Kay Morton, Christine Barrier, Kim Gibson, Chris Austin, Fran little, MarySue Wright-Baker, Joyce Dorsey
Mission Statement: Leeann Crump, Chair; Alice Pennix, Ann Dalton
Nominating: Carol Horne, Faye Black.

Go back to proposed budget – under Professional Improvement Scholarship should be \$500 instead of \$400 and the Herter O'Neal Scholarship budget will have to be changed

to reflect the increase and with the dues increase from last year and travel money that was used to this year to go to other states before we transferred the money I think we can cover that easily without any problem.

Invitation to 2008 State Meeting from the Southeast District in Wilmington, Hilton Riverside Downtown Wilmington, September 17, 18 & 19 Thursday night banquet will be a luau theme.

Chris wanted a show of hands of who might want to attend the meeting in Tennessee.

Installation of officers – Chris Austin, Advisor

Donna Fulp, Advisor
Rhonda Gaster, Secretary
Cathy Harvey, Treasurer
Pamela Brylow, 2nd Vice President
Carol Horne, 1st Vice President
Janet VanJaarsveld, President

Closing remarks and passing of the Presidential Gavel –

Donna presented the President's gavel to Janet VanJaarsveld, 2007-2008 president. Janet awarded the 2006-2007 President's plaque to Donna Fulp for her dedicated service.

Respectfully submitted by:

Teresa S. Story,
NCCESA Secretary