

**Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals**  
**Spring Meeting**  
**Kentucky State University**  
**Frankfort, Kentucky**  
**April 13, 2018**

The Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals (KASEP) met on Friday, April 13, 2018 at Kentucky State University in Frankfort, Kentucky. Vice President, Tyrone Atkinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Forty-six members and guests were in attendance. Tyrone and Maria Harris, Board Member, led the group in a networking icebreaker.

KASEP President, Nicole Gauthier welcomed everyone and introduced administrators as they brought greetings.

Dr. Kirk Pomper, Dean of the College of Agriculture at Kentucky State University welcomed the group to campus. Dr. Pomper extended an invitation to upcoming Third Thursday field programs. He also announced the Harold Benson Luncheon for undergraduate and graduate students in agriculture majors. The luncheon will honor Dr. Benson and there will be a keynote address from Alton Thompson, who is Executive Director of the Association of 1890 Research Directors. Dr. Pomper concluded his remarks by speaking on the strength of diversity.

Dr. Gary Palmer, Interim Associate Dean of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and Assistant Director for Agriculture and Natural Resources brought greetings from UK Extension. Dr. Palmer announced hiring is expected to resume for County Agent positions in the near future. Twenty county vacancies will be maintained to balance the budget. He anticipates there will be competitive applicant pools for these positions. Dr. Palmer also reinforced the importance of the relationships between UK and KSU as well as collaboration between Agents and Specialists. He finished his remarks by highlighting areas of successful partnerships.

Dr. Christopher Brown II, President of Kentucky State University welcomed the group. Dr. Brown spoke about the mission of the land-grant system and his focus to orient campus toward agriculture because of this land-grant mission. He also spoke on ways to support Kentuckians through excellent customer service and emphasized working with underserved populations.

Keynote Speaker:

Ryan Quarrels, Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture provided a keynote address. Mr. Quarrels has a strong history of involvement in agriculture and participation in Extension programs. His current work focuses on agriculture diversity and innovation. He is also working to connect Kentucky farmers with local and global economies using the Kentucky Proud brand. He views Extension as a vehicle to transfer research from the University to small farms and family farms. Mr. Quarrels spoke of protecting the Farm Bill to strengthen the work of Extension.

Business Meeting:

President Nicole Gauthier called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.

*Secretary Report.* The minutes from the April 14, 2017 meeting was presented to the membership. Louie Rivers moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Pam Sigler; motion carried. The minutes from the November 3, 2017 meeting was also presented. Pam Sigler moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Nancy Calix; motion carried.

*Treasurers Report.* Treasurer Kim Leonberger presented the financial report. Tyrone Atkinson moved to accept the report, seconded by Morgan Hayes; motion carried.

#### Old Business:

*KASEP Survey.* Nicole Gauthier presented the results from the KASEP members survey that was collected at the Fall 2017 meeting.

*Ad Hoc Committee.* In 2016, the career ladder ad hoc committee was formed. The group created a survey and a report was generated. Being their work was complete, Kim Leonberger moved to dissolve the committee; seconded by Maria Harris. Motion carried.

#### New Business:

*Election of Officers.* Ballots were distributed which listed nominees submitted by the nominating committee and self-nomination. Nominations from the floor were called for, but there were none. Balloting was completed by the membership.

*Audit Committee.* Volunteers were recruited for the audit committee. The following were appointed: Chris Cribbs, Nancy Calix and Morgan Hayes.

*Awards.* President Nicole Gauthier honored Darlene Mylin and Jackie Owens with Friends of KASEP awards for their support of the association. Awards committee chair, Dr. Greg Renfro presented the following awards:

- Outstanding Project: Ask the Experts, Mindy McCulley
- Outstanding Program: Jackie Jacobs and Tony Pescatore
- Extension Associate: Kim Leonberger
- Extension Specialist: Louie Rivers
- New Extension Faculty: Heather Norman-Burgdolf

Dr. William Snell provided remarks for the Whitaker Award. Dr. Whitaker's widow and daughter were in attendance for the award presentation. The Whitaker Award was presented to Dr. Tim Woods.

There was a brief intermission for lunch and networking.

*Presentation of New Officers & Board.* The results of the election were announced. The following were elected officers and board members for the ensuing year:

- President: Tyrone Atkinson
- Vice President: Brooke Jenkins-Howard
- Secretary: Allison Young
- Board Members: Steve Patton, Kathryn Mitchell, Morgan Hayes, and Travella Free

Other board officers and members with an unexpired term who will continue to serve in leadership positions include:

- Past President: Nicole Gauthier
- Treasurer: Kim Leonberger
- Board Members: Nancy Calix, Maria Harris, Jimmy Henning, and Paul Vijayakumar

With no further business, Louie Rivers moved to adjourn the business meeting, seconded by Nancy Calix; motion carried.

Capnote Speaker:

Mr. Warren Beeler, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy provided closing remarks. Some of his interests include working with young farmers and technology in agriculture. He encouraged the group to think about how agriculture adjusts to consumer demands. He also stated Extension needs to better understand how agriculture is changing and how to utilize in technology for agriculture production to better serve the agriculture community.