

**MEAFCS Executive Board
Conference Call
March 26, 2009**

Present: Sharon Jeffery, Laurie Blanchard, Shannon Lindquist, Lisa Treiber, Diane Rellinger, Gretchen Hofing (for Jane Hart), Beth Waitrovich, Joanne Pihlaja, Jinnifer Gibbs, Kris Swartzendruber and Cindy Warren.

- I. Conference call began at 9:35 AM.
- II. **Motion** to approve the agenda made by Beth Waitrovich/seconded by Joanne Pihlaja. Lisa Treiber suggested that the MEAFCS membership list include information regarding years of membership and a listing of previous awards won. Motion passed with the inclusion of this information.
- III. **Motion** to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2009 meeting was made by Lisa Treiber/seconded by Jinnifer Gibbs. Motion passed.
- IV. Committee to review the minutes of this meeting: Diane Rellinger, Joanne Pihlaja and Shannon Lindquist.
- V. Officer Reports:
 - Shannon Lindquist (**President**)

JCEP was a good conference. Budgets were a major concern for all states. Ohio is going to the regional extension conformation. The MCEA meeting was attended. The North Region requests assistance in obtaining a campus "linker".

Shannon indicated that Cheri Booth has this on her agenda and that it will, hopefully, be resolved soon. The North Region states that they do not have a linker either.
 - Jinnifer Gibbs (**President-elect**)
 - * Attended MCEA meetings on 1/27/09 and 3/24/09. Jinnifer was nominated to be the MCEA HR Representative. She communicated with Renee Rivard and Nancy Axtell regarding HR communication.
 - * Left a message with Matt at Option 1 Credit Union to confirm our June 24th MEAFCS Membership meeting. She is awaiting a response.
 - Cindy Warren (**Secretary**)

Completed the minutes to the January 16, 2009 meeting. The previous minutes need to be posted on the portal.
 - Laurie Blanchard (**Treasurer**)

Two others have joined MEAFCS, bringing the membership total to 78. MCEA dues (of \$1.00/member) are due. Laurie will send a check. Question whether or not the treasurer needs Board approval to issue checks for expenses. Answer: not if the expenses are part of the budget. Reimbursement for mileage to meetings was discussed. Currently any Board member can request mileage reimbursement for one half of their mileage.

Meetings via teleconferences will help reduce travel expenses. To receive mileage reimbursement, a travel voucher is to be sent to the treasurer. Discussion suggested that not everyone may need mileage reimbursement. Shannon will email board members to survey needs.

- Lisa Treiber (**Past President**)
 - * February – helped North Region award chairperson and treasurer, Laurie Blanchard, coordinate list of potential candidates for Distinguished Service Award, Continued Excellence Award and Extension Educator of the Year Award.
 - * March 20, 2009 – attended Central Region MEAFCS meeting.
 - * March 24, 2009 - attended MCEA meeting in East Lansing.

VI. Regional Reports:

- Diane Rellinger (**North**)

The north region MEAFCS responsibility is awards. To facilitate this process an awards flyer was created and emailed to all current members to encourage participation. The Michigan deadline was placed on the NEAFCS website and assistance was provided for members inquiring about the awards process. An email was sent out to current eligible members to encourage 'Distinguished Service Award' and 'Continuing Service Award' applications. The MEAFCS website was updated (thank you Shannon) to contain accurate awards information. All award applications and packets were received prior to the deadline. The awards review committee met and reviewed awards. Michigan award winners were chosen and National award nominees were also chosen. The on-line NEAFCS on-line award page was filled out and all national award nominees were mailed on 3/26/09. A formal letter to Michigan award winners will be mailed, and these winners will be honored at the June MEAFCS membership meeting. National award nominees will be notified that their award application and/or award submission were chosen as Michigan affiliate nominees. The next north region MEAFCS membership meeting will be April 29, 2009. Discussed whether or not award winners are to be announced prior to the summer membership meeting. Award winners will be sent letters informing them of their award(s) shortly before the summer meeting. National winners will also be informed at this time. Awards for six categories were submitted.
- Kris Swartzendruber (**Member Resources/SE**)

Group met the previous Monday. Discussed membership and the possibility of combining meetings and professional development. Membership to be promoted and inform all new staff how membership impacts professional development. Cost of membership discussed (scholarships or collect at different time of the year).
- Gretchen Hofing (**Historical Records, SW**)

A committee is to be set up to do a 25 year historical record overview.
- Sharon Jeffery (**Professional Development**)

The Central Region MEAFCS quarterly meeting was held on March 20 at

Shepherd. Ten members attended. A variety of topics were discussed related to conferences attended, programming, budget concerns, future events.

Professional Development funds awarded, to date, have been distributed.

New applications are now being accepted.

- Beth Waitrovich and Joanne Pihlaja (U.P.)

The U.P. regional MEAFCS meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2009.

Connie Costner is the U.P. campus linker.

VII. Old Business:

A. Goals need to be reviewed. The association's information on the portal needs to be updated (membership, meeting minutes and award information and goals). C. Warren, Secretary, will follow up.

The President-elect (Jinnifer Gibbs) will review the goals before the summer membership meeting.

B. The summer membership meeting will take place on June 24, 2009 in Lansing. The meeting will begin at 9:15 A.M. with lunch at 12 – 12:45.

VIII. New Business:

A. A Board meeting will be held before the summer membership meeting. \

B. The next conference calls are scheduled for April 21 and May 18, 2009.

The April call will begin at 9:30 A.M. and the May call will begin at 10:00 A.M.

C. Who's responsibility is it to be the portal administrator? This was done previously with the assistance of Rita Klavinski. This needs further clarification.

D. When dealing with award applications, it would be easier to determine eligibility if a list were maintained indicating member's years of association membership and previous awards won. Beth Waitrovich and Diane Rellinger will compile this information before next year's award process begins (January, 2010).

E. Interest in participating in the National Cookbook project was discussed. Members are hesitant to become involved in this project for several reasons, including cookbook cost (\$25.00 each) and volume needing to be sold to earn funds for our association.

F. Hosting the National Conference in Michigan in 2012 was discussed. Tom Coon is reported to be in favor of having our association do this. MI did host this event in 1986. If done, Indiana will likely help. The best location in the state was discussed. The National Association would provide guidance in accomplishing this task (via Linda Huyck). Phil Durst would be a good resource person. Everyone is encouraged to email Shannon with thoughts, suggestions, concerns, etc. regarding this project.

G. The availability of stimulus monies for FCS programming was questioned. MSHDA has received some funds. Debbie Stabenow, state senator, will be questioned at the PILD conference. Most money appears to be going to

local units of government. Shannon will email any information she receives.

IX. The conference call ended at 11:22 A.M. when the connection was lost.