

## **University of Illinois Extension Council Meeting—Unit 24**

President Cole Fechtig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at Dream Baskets in Harrisburg. This was the re-organization meeting and annual dinner.

Members present included Cole Fechtig, Doug Patton, Donnie Ahrens, Hank Oldham, Brandon Vickery, Melissa Presser, Shelley Friend, Joy Richey and Nadine York. Jody Johnson, Interim County Director, was also present along with guest, Mark York.

Minutes from the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting needed to be approved since there was not a quorum at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Donnie Ahrens made a motion to approve those minutes, Nadine York seconded it, and the motion carried.

New council appointments were reviewed. Hank Oldham will be replacing Donnie Ahrens for Gallatin County. In Pope County, Tony Eckert will replace Beth Eckert and Shelley Friend will replace Melissa Presser. Donna Rumsey will be replacing Joy Richey in Saline. Retiring members were thanked for their service and presented with some gifts of appreciation.

Officers for 2019-20 were nominated as follows:

Cole Fechtig—President

Hank Oldham—Vice President

Holly Healy—Secretary

Financial Reporter—Nadine York

Melissa Presser made a motion that the officers listed above be elected. Brandon Vickery seconded, and it carried.

Extension Board Members were elected with a motion by Donnie Ahrens and a second by Melissa Presser. Members are Brandon Vickery, Hank Oldham, Nadine York, and Donna Rumsey.

Joy Richey shared information from the year-end financial report. She reviewed income and sources of funding for Extension. Expenses were discussed as well. Council members were reminded that we should serve as ambassadors for Extension in our local communities. Donnie moved to accept the financial report, Melissa seconded, and the motion carried.

Joy also reported that the Saline-Gallatin-Pope-Hardin 4-H and Extension Foundation has received the 501(c)3 tax exempt status. They have had a successful fundraiser, and are working with some staff members on various projects.

Recommendations for In and Out Account check signers are as follows:

Hamilton County—Melissa Wilson, Don Darnell, Lisa Miller

Saline County—Melissa Wilson, Tony Eckert, Bronwyn Aly, Susan Odum

White County—Melissa Wilson, Bronwyn Aly, Cole Fechtig, Pam Haywood

There was a question about Tony Eckert being from Pope County. Hank made a motion, seconded by Donnie, to accept these recommendations. Motion carried.

Suggestions for committee members to perform In and Out Account Audits were:  
Hamilton—Cindy Anselment, Nolene Rubenecker, and Lynn Smith. Cara Bowling is an alternate.  
Saline—Nadine York, Beth Eckert, and Kim Bainbridge. Doug Patton is an alternate.  
White—Amy Harrison, Jennifer Carter-James, and Amanda Courson. Lisa Wolff is an alternate.  
It was noted that audit committee members do not have to be Extension Council members.  
Doug Patton made a motion to approve these suggestions, Melissa Presser seconded it. Motion carried.

Meeting dates were set for the coming year. They are November 14, February 13, May 14, and August 6<sup>th</sup>. All will be in the Saline County Extension Office at 6:00 p.m. unless notified differently.

Jody Johnson reported that Community Economic Development Educator, Susan Odum, has accepted a new position on a Regional Level. He said he thought that the CED Unit position would be filled. There was a question as to whether we have any choice about the subject matter expertise of a new educator for the Unit.

All 4-H Fairs and shows are over, and members are taking projects to State Fair. Gallatin has one member participating, Hamilton has 15, Saline 6, and White 26. Several Summer Cooking and Gardening classes have been held in the Unit. Melissa Wilson has applied for a grant from Wal-Mart to help with program expenses.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) staff is presenting nutrition/exercise programs at local libraries. Pam Haywood is in White County, Jennifer Warren is in Pope/Hardin, Robin Johnston is in Saline/Gallatin, and Nancy Hardy works in White/Hamilton. Nancy plans to retire in a few months. There was discussion that this program is funded through Food Stamp dollars in the Farm Bill.

Bronwyn Aly is having good success with her work at Dixon Springs. Produce has been provided for Food Pantries, Cooking Classes, Farmer's Markets, and some has been sold. She is doing research on cucumbers also. A program coordinator will be employed soon to work with her. She will also be getting a two-wheeled trailer and a John Deere Gator. Her project working with the prison is ending soon. Prison officials say it has been very successful.

4-H Program Coordinators received a fairly large increase in the base salary statewide to make their pay more equitable. All new hires now have a Bachelor's degree.

A Civil Rights Audit was done in the spring. No major problems were identified.

The County Director Position for the six counties is currently being publicized with a closing date of August 22nd. Jody reported that the job will also include serving as Director of the Dixon Springs Ag. Center. There were questions about whether this may be too much for one person. Six counties is a huge area to cover, and the focus for Extension is different than it would be for the Director of DSAC.

Nadine York made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Brandon Vickery seconded, and it carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Joy Richey  
Acting Secretary