

Southern Region Middle Managers

June 12, 2025 Meeting Notes

Meeting Called to order at 10:00am

Danny Peek opened the meeting by welcoming team members. 16 middle managers were present.

Dr. Carolyn Williams shared greetings and remarks pertaining to the following:

- The Association of Extension Administrators will be meeting in two weeks at South Carolina State University for the summer AEA meeting.
- Current budget discussion
- Planning for the 135th 2nd Morrill Act Celebration
 - Established 1890 institutions
 - September 8-10, 2025, there will be a celebration in Washington D.C. at the Library of Congress to recognize 1890's and the contributions that have been made over the past 135 years.

Blake Lanford shared an update regarding PLN:

- As of June 11th, there were 149 individuals registered. PLN is scheduled to take place August 18-21, 2025 in Atlanta, GA. Registration is open on the PLN website. There is another PLN meeting scheduled for June 19th to wrap up final planning. The theme is centered around 'Strengthening Cooperative Extension'. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Allison Davis from the University of Kentucky. There's a PLN committee chair training scheduled for July 22nd for all chairs. On August 7th, there will be a note shared soliciting feedback for potential speakers for sessions. This message will come directly from Rosanne at Mississippi State.
- With regard to hotel rooms at the conference, please make sure you reserve your room ASAP, they are going fast. The conference hotel is the Hilton Atlanta.
- Danny shared that as a MM group, we need to recruit for presentations during the conference. Please share any suggestions, ideas, topics that you may have that will be beneficial. Presentations should be 30-45 minutes. Regarding the process for submitting proposals, please let Keith know.
 - Donald Kelm proposed a presentation topic centered around Student Internship Programs and orientation processes.
 - Another topic discussed was guidance regarding effective implementation of AI in Cooperative Extension.

Hiring Pause Discussion

- Danny discussed recent hiring pauses that have affected many states. Several participants who were on the call shared similar sentiments regarding hiring pauses especially as it relates to SNAP & EFNEP. NC shared that because of the pause, counties are considering

covering 100% of the counties. States are cautiously reviewing budgets as it relates to hiring.

2027 Middle Managers Meeting

- Chris Hicks shared that the 2027 middle managers meeting will be in Knoxville, Tennessee. The team has started checking into hotels and dates for the upcoming meeting.

Reporting Systems Discussion

- Danny suggested that during our upcoming middle managers meeting, we discuss reporting systems. There are several states using different reporting systems such as pears. It would be great to discuss systems that's currently in use and explore the negatives and positives of each system.

Remote Work Perception Survey

- Blake shared that as a part of the MM POW, it was proposed that do work towards this effort. The survey has been drafted and ready to share. The team would like to share the feedback during the upcoming PLN meeting during the MM session. Based on the results, the team may need additional time to share post the PLN meeting.

Next Meeting

- July 10, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 10:34am