



South Central NCCESA Spring Meeting
March 31, 2006
Mid-Pines Golf Resort
Southern Pines, North Carolina

The spring meeting of the South Central NCCESA was held at Mid-Pines Golf Resort for the purpose of all members touring the facility, which will host the 2006 NCCESA State Meeting.

Devona Beard, President, opened the meeting by welcoming, Scott Russell, Marketing Director of Mid-Pines Resort. Mr. Russell provided a history of the resort along with reviewing some of the amenities that are available to guests of the resort. All meetings and workshops will be held in the conference rooms at the Mid-Pines resorts. The awards banquet is to be held at Pine-Needles, which is located across the street. He also reviewed some of the guidelines already in place for the meeting.

- Introduced Patsy Smith, Conference Meeting Supervisor
- Asked that communications be limited to 1 – 2 persons
- Room rate is \$57.50 per person – double occupancy or \$115.00 – single occupancy plus tax
- The resort needs reservations by August 13, suggested that we offered August 1 as our deadline to attendees
- Informed the group that we could bring audio visual, or use the services of the resort recommended audio visual company. The resort does not provide equipment.
- Offered the suggestion of using bagpipes as entertainment
- NCCESA members will be offered a special golf rate
- Golf carts would be available for use at a cost of \$20 per day
- While the resort has two vans available for transportation use, it will be mainly our own responsibility for transportation to the banquet

After Mr. Russell's presentation, we toured the facility. We visited the registration area, the lobby, the dining room, the dining terrace, the board room, the guest rooms, and lastly the banquet room located at Pine-Needles.

After returning from the resort tour, Devona thank Mr. Russell for his time, he once again welcomed our group to the resort and offered his assistance at any time.

After a short break, Devona officially called the meeting to order. She announced that due to the amount of items we needed to cover, the agenda would not be followed as it was prepared. She asked for the group's patience in the proceedings.

The group was led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the "Thought for the Day", which was a Dr. Seuss poem, "I Love My Job", presented by Kay Morton, First Vice-President.

Susan Graham began the distribution of the host shirts for those that ordered them. She announced the cost. Each county was called and shirts were distributed.

Devona thanked the District Officers for providing refreshments for the morning.

First item for discussion was what should be worn with the host shirts. After a short discussion Denese Prevatte had a motion, seconded by Penny McCartney, that pants of any color could be worn. The motion failed by a vote of 8 for/9 against.

A second discussion took place. During this discussion the subject of blue jeans was raised. Janet Mabry offered information that most golf resorts do not allow blue jeans on the course. Debbie Gibson made a motion, seconded by Brenda Gooden, that pants, skorts, skirts, or capris in khaki, navy, or black may be worn with host shirts. Motion carried. This will be the host attire for Thursday during the state meeting.

Devona recognized Susan Brame, South Central District Secretary. Susan announced that Danny Shaw, South Central District Director, was attending a District Conference and unable to attend the meeting. She encouraged each member to keep a positive attitude concerning the changes that are taking place within Extension. On a personal note, she expressed her sincere thanks for the many thoughts, prayers and concerns during the loss of her mother.

Devona announced that Courtenay Hansley-Newkirk, Cumberland Cooperative Extension Secretary, would be leaving Extension in June. Courtenay was thanked for her many contributions to the South Central District Association.

Roll call was done by Susan Johnson, Secretary. There were no retirees present at the meeting.

Anson – 2	Bladen – 3	Chatham – 3	Columbus – 3	Cumberland – 5
Harnett – 3	Hoke – 2	Lee – 2	Montgomery – 2	Moore – 2
Richmond – 1	Robeson – 4	Scotland – 2	Stanly – 2	District Secretary -1

The half-and-half drawing was won by Beverly Burney of Bladen County.

Standing committee reports were given. In an effort to save time, committee chairpersons met with committee members via email to prepare their reports.

Membership- Cindy Vann

Two new members have joined the association, Angela Priest in Moore County and Donna Foster in Cumberland County. Each new member introduced herself to the group. Each new member was sent a letter of welcome and web addresses of the district and state associations.

There are 35 active members, 3 Association Retirees, and 8 Honorary Members.

Public Relations – Rhonda Gaster

The committee encourages all secretaries to contribute to the District Newsletter. Pictures are also encouraged. Articles and pictures may be sent to any committee member. Articles are due from the counties by December 1, and June 1.

Nominating – Betty Juhan

District officers shall be the same as the state officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The retiring President shall serve as Advisor.

Officers shall serve a term of one year. Elections shall be held at the fall meeting and elected officers will be installed at this meeting. Their term of duty will begin October 1 and continue to September 30. No two officers shall be elected from the same county.

Requests for nominations will be sent to all members sometime during June.

Scholarship – Nan Rackley

Scholarship information and applications were mailed to all high schools and the community college. Two newspapers were provided a news release. Six applications have been received and will be reviewed.

The committee made a motion, seconded by Susan Johnson, that the scholarship information, guidelines and applications be placed on the South Central District web site to make it easier for each committee to access the information. Motion carried.

Reflections – Starla Haywood

Anyone with articles or pictures they would like included in the scrapbooks – please forward to Starla.

Professional Improvement – Roberto Cruz

Information was provided about Brainbench.com website. Brainbench offers free certification in various topics. This is a great way to further your credentials. They also offer paid tests for additional topics, a personality assessment test as well as some “fun” test to test your trivial knowledge.

Rules & By-Laws – Amy Holder

A proposed change initiated by the State Rules & By-Laws Committee was brought before the group for consideration. Devona Beard and Janet Mabry expressed a concern that the wording was incorrect on the proposed by-law change provided by Connie Bass. It was decided to table the discussion until the wording on the by-law change could be verified. Any proposed by-law changes must be posted on the website before they can be voted on.

Secretary of the Year – Pearl Blount

Nominations for Secretary of the Year should be submitted to Pearl on or before July 1st. Reminders will be emailed to all secretaries. Efforts will be made to include the information in the spring newsletter. Everyone is encouraged to apply for the award.

Finance – Janet Mabry

Janet Mabry read thank you notes from Susan Brame and Tracy Brown. She also read a note from Nora Smith, former Extension employee. Nora had reviewed the scrapbooks and enjoyed seeing former employee friends.

Financial reports were provided. Monies collected for the state meeting were also reviewed. It appears that we are financially sound for the meeting costs, but encouraged each county to donate all possible funds to help keep the registration costs as low as possible.

A motion was made by Pearl Blount, seconded by Kay Morton to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve them as sent via email. Motion carried.

Leanne Crump offered invocation and the group broke for lunch.

After a delicious lunch the group met at the front of the resort for the group picture.

Devona recalled the meeting to order and begin our session with a fun and entertaining ice breaker. Members paired up and turned their backs to each other. We were then instructed to make 5 changes. We then turned around and had to guess which changes were made by our partner. At this point we had to repeat the process. This activity showed us the importance of being willing to make changes. Devona then asked each member if they still had the puzzle piece presented to them at the last meeting. This is to encourage us to remember we are pieces of the puzzle.

The meeting was then turned over to Starla Haywood, Chairperson of the State Meeting committee.

Tours – Lee County

There had been some changes in securing the buses for the tours. The cost has risen to a very high amount – to include deposits. With the need of two buses – the cost is of great concern.

A small charge for the tours will be an additional cost for registration purposes. This will help defray the transportation costs.

Cumberland County offered to check and see if their bus could be used. Please contact Kay or Rhonda if you know of another bus company that might be available.

The Kitchen Tour will not be available during the time of the state meeting. An alternate is to tour two houses of interest in the area. The Cameron Antique and Shopping tour is still on schedule. There will be two different times offered for this tour.

State meeting attendees should plan for one tour and one workshop or two workshops.

Workshops – Scotland County

Cathy Graham, Scotland County Director, will provide one workshop titled “Look at the View”. The workshop will focus on balance in personal and professional life. She will not charge for the workshop, just requests a room with a view. The length of the workshop can be adjusted to fit time schedule.

Due to sales territory issues the proposed Estee Lauder workshop is probably not going to be offered. Annie has sent several email messages and left several phone messages for the manager of Belk in Southern Pines to see if arrangements can be worked out. They have not been returned. Annie and Roberto plan to stop and see the manager on the way home to see if arrangements can be worked out.

Information Technology and/or Adrian Gaskins are available to provide an Information Technology workshop on a topic suitable for everyone. The group decided on asking that the workshop be offered on Image Manipulation and managing the new Extension website.

Additional possible workshop presenter would be Mitch Owens. This would allow a choice of three workshops for state meeting attendees.

Discussion was held concerning length of time for tours and workshops. The tours will probably be 1½ hours with the workshops between 45-60 minutes.

Lee County and Scotland County are to work together to establish a workable time table for tours and workshops.

Speaker – Hoke County

Bill Thompson will be the guest speaker. He will charge \$500. Several members have heard him speak and report that he is an excellent speaker. Dianne is to check to see if he will have additional expenses such as mileage cost, lodging, etc...

Decorations – Anson County, Richmond County, Columbus County

Ruth Ann Pope reported that due to the beautifully decorated dining area, very simple table decorations will be needed. As earlier indicated – containers with golf balls, accented with fresh flowers will be used for table decorations. Containers of mums will also be used and will become door prizes. Large baskets of flowers will be used during the awards banquet. Table decorations will be simple with an ornament placed at each person's place during dinner. Decoration costs will be between \$250-300.

Entertainment – Bladen County

Possible use of the bagpipes was mentioned. Devona has tried to reach Heather Shaw to see if she is available to perform. Barron Maness was also suggested.

Discussion was held to decide if time allows for someone to provide entertainment. Bladen County is to continue making arrangements for entertainment.

Banquet time will be 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

All awards will be presented during the banquet.

Opening lunch on Thursday will be at 11:30 a.m.

Host Dress and Recognition – Chatham County

Host shirts have been distributed. Susan will check to see if additional shirts can be ordered. Devona also showed jackets which are available for purchase. Chatham to provide yellow ribbons to wear with State Meeting name tags – which will be supplied by Stanly County.

Hospitality Bags – Harnett County

Prepare 200 bags. Already voted on to purchase for the bags are sun visors and notepads. Additional items to go in the bag are golf pencils and snack items. Devona placed several items that could be ordered on the meeting tables. These items could have the logo on them.

Each county is to provide 3 six packs of drinks, 3 six packs of water, 18 packs of crackers, and 18 packs of gum. Columbus County will check on peanuts from the Peanut Association.

Debbie Gipson made a motion, seconded by Starla Harwood to purchase tooth brush covers. Susan Johnson will supply toothbrushes.

Each county is to let Amy Holder know what they will provide for the hospitality bag.

Twenty-five rooms have been blocked for Wednesday night. Plan to arrive early Wednesday to begin preparations. Starla is to check to see how early we can begin preparing. A start time will be decided at the August meeting.

Due to limited time and the struggle to secure vendors, it was decided that vendors will not be included in the meeting activities.

Door Prizes – Cumberland

Each secretary is responsible for a \$20.00 door prize. Each door prize should be wrapped if appropriate. Door prize tickets will be included in the registration packet.

Program – Robeson County

Please have sponsors to Robeson County by September 1.

Meal will be buffet. Very little difference in the cost of a plate meal and the buffet.

Costs for the meals are as follows:

Breakfast - \$10

Lunch - \$12

Dinner - \$30

The resort does not provide AV equipment. Will probably use the sound company the resort recommends. A final decision will be made in August.

Registration cost is dependent on the remaining estimated costs. The State Planning Committee will make the final decision on registration cost.

April 15 is the deadline to have all information to Janet and Starla concerning estimated costs and plans.

Meal times are as follows:

Lunch on Thursday – 11:30 am

Banquet on Thursday – 6:00 pm

Breakfast on Friday – 8:00-9:00 am

The possibility of a retiree reception was discussed. The decision was made not to pursue planning a retiree reception.

State Planning committee will secure program participants.

An invitation was issued to attend the fall meeting in Anson County. Date will be announced later.

After expressing her sincere thanks for everyone's patience and assistance, Devona Beard adjourned the meeting.