

**Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting
June 21, 2016**

Location: Golden Corral

Time: 11:30

Guest Speaker: Gina Noe, Madison County Family and Consumer Science Agent

Topic: Program Availability for Residents of Madison County

Charles Hay, incoming president of EKURA, opened the meeting by welcoming more than 20 members and guests to our June meeting. After a buffet luncheon, a brief business meeting followed. Charles called the meeting to order and asked that new attendees please sign the sheet circulating so that we will have current email addresses. It is especially important to notify us of any email preferred to the ECU address, so that members may be assured of receiving notifications. As minutes are distributed electronically on the EKURA website, Charles called for approval. They were approved by consensus. Pat Ridgley, treasurer, reported that 47 are currently paid members of EKURA. He reminded those in attendance of the \$10 per year dues OR \$120 for a lifetime membership, \$100 of which goes to our scholarship fund. Our current balance is \$2,488.99. Jackie Vance, Secretary, reminded members to complete white cards which authorize \$20 to be taken from a member's November pension check; with this process an ECU retiree is a member of KRTA and is guaranteed benefits and publications.

Charles announced that 22 will be going on the trip to Springfield, Illinois and distributed information which attendees will need regarding departure on July 6, 2016. Any questions should be addressed to Charles Hay or Bob Rogow, who is to be commended for arranging the trip. Carol Ford, who is a scholarship coordinator in the ECU Office of Development spoke with us briefly about the scholarship program coordinated through her department for EKURA. She explained that the program was established through a Memorandum of Agreement and that an addenda completed in 2007 clarified some points about distribution of money annually for a single scholarship. Historically, a recipient who remains in good standing, according to guidelines, may receive the award for more than one academic year. Jackie Vance made a motion, seconded by Laura Melius, that Taylor Grayson, a graduate student in Occupational Therapy awarded the scholarship in 2015-16, be awarded the scholarship for 2016-17, to assist her in completing her degree in Spring, 2017. The membership of EKURA approved the motion by voice vote.

Richard Vance, Legislative Chairperson, reviewed a few points brought from the District meeting in Estill County and asked that members stay aware of important information about our pension fund through newsletters mailed from KRTA and online sent through email and by website (both KTRS and KRTA). Charles reviewed information sent from Bob Waggoner, Executive Director of KRTA, all of which may be seen at the website. He asked that any member contact him or any officer with ideas for the upcoming year which might be considered at the Long-range Planning meeting for the current officers. Fawn Conley, incoming Vice President, announced the continuation of the three programs we participate in annually as affiliates of KRTA. We will collect items for the

Back Pack School Supply Program in August, collection of canned foods in October and hats, gloves, and scarves for the Salvation Army in December.

Charles Hay introduced our speaker, Gina Noe representing the Madison County Cooperative Extension Service. She has a long history with the extension service concept, having been a 4-H member from fourth grade through college. Both her undergraduate degree in business from UK and subsequently a master's degree from UK in Family Studies has prepared her well to begin her career as 4-H agent in Lexington and to have evolved into her current position in the Madison County Extension Service. She explained the history of extension services in the Commonwealth of Kentucky beginning with funding given to land grant universities in the late 1800's and evolving into the current partnerships, as outreach branches of UK, between federal, state, and county governments. Originally most dollars were from the federal level but now as much as 50% of the funds are from the county level. Programs are now very broad in scope inclusive of ages nine (with 4-H programs) through adults and several agents with a multiplicity of expertise areas serving youth and adults.

The extension service sponsors camp scholarships, speech contests, preparation in life skills and many other focus points to provide programs which build confidence in children and youth. Gina then focused on programs which are of interest to the adults in the community and are available to anyone. She spoke of Amanda Sears, horticulture agent, who runs programs such as that to build skills to qualify as a Master Gardener and as well she produces a monthly publication PAY DIRT which is available to anyone requesting. Amanda is available through a website, Facebook page, and twitter to respond to questions local residents may have regarding planting. Agent Brandon Sears focuses on natural resources and is also available for questions and programs. Gina also announced activities such as a Garden Tour, sponsored by RAAC and Garden Club, which is open to community members. She spoke of the Barn Quilt Square Project, parenting classes, classes for specific interests such as cooking, sewing, financial, health issues, wellness programs, and many other interests. All available initiatives are planned around the three premises of consumer development, education, leadership, and service. These are embedded in every program, the most recognizable of which is the Homemaker Program; the Extension Service has become so much more far-reaching than its original boundaries. There is literally something for everyone. The very best way to learn of all available opportunities is to go out to the offices on Duncannon Lane and pick up available literature, or sign up (for \$8 a year) to become a Mailbox Member and receive monthly schedules of the plethora of activities being offered in this community. We appreciate so much Gina Noe bringing such valuable information to us.

Ron Wolfe announced the EKURA next event which is a group attendance at Richmond's Pops in the Park on August 27. More information will be coming.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30. The next meeting will be August 16, at Golden Corral. WATCH THE WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS and more information.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Vance,