Minutes

Attendance: Pat Kosmach, DuPage; Lucile Poroli, Will; Wayne Mundsinger, Kendall; Tom Dahlfors, McHenry; Tanesha Pittman, Cook; and Extension staff members Jim Oliver, Margaret DeNard, Molly Hofer, and Cathie Condon

Absent: Ana Espinoza, Kane; Nancy Spice, Kankakee; and Laurel Dahl, Lake.

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves and their county and/or position.

Sharing: County reports were delivered by those members present. These reports are saved in a separate document titled named, “sharing” minutes.

Review/approval of minutes from previous meeting: It was moved (Poroli) and seconded (Dahlfors) to approve the minutes as corrected (Poroli was misspelled and the location was changed to reflect that the meeting was moved from the DuPage office in Naperville to the Clubhouse Restaurant in Oak Brook). Motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: Molly Hofer, Center Educator, Family Life, presented information on her role as a Family Life educator with a specialty of gerontology. This included statistics on the aging population in the Illinois and the United States and the issues confronting them. Hofer gave an abridged version of a much requested program, “Building a Better Memory.” Discussion followed.

New Business: Administrative Update

Personnel Update: Following the retirement of Don Schellhauss in McHenry County, Russ Higgins has been serving as Interim Director. We had two candidates to fill the vacancy, but both declined. Cindy Worsley, Director in Kane County, recently retired. We are going to wait a month before advertising the position to better assess the financial situation in both Kane and DuPage counties. It may be that those counties will share an administrator. Lake County will have a new director effective November 3. James Reaves, who comes from Atlanta, Georgia, has worked for Extension Service for 29 years.

There are educator positions that we are working on filling in the areas of Community Health, Nutrition, Immigration, Consumer and Family Economics, and 4-H/Youth Development. We are also advertising for a 4-H/Youth Development Educator for Will County.

Budget: Every year we have an internal reduction by 4%. Center educators are the most affected by this reduction. They must therefore recover more of their costs for programming. They will be charging more often for programs, and a $60 flat fee for travel expenses will be assessed to counties and calculated into programming fees. A major drive for all professional
staff will be in seeking grants and other types of support for programming efforts. To that end, we hope to have a staff person assist in grant submissions.

The county board match should be close to 100%. Youth Development funding has been restored, and positions are being advertised for Cook and Will Counties. DuPage County also has an open position for which we may advertise next month.

**Marketing Update:** Margaret DeNard thanked Dr. Oliver for his support of providing funds to develop marketing materials in both Will and DuPage Counties.

The SmartHome exhibit at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry has been a great success and has been extended for another year. Chicago’s Mayor Daley visited the exhibit recently and spent a considerable amount of time in the garden area which had been developed and maintained by Northeast Region master gardeners.

**Civil Service Update:** Secretaries will have an inservice on November 14 at Walter Payton’s Roundhouse in Aurora. Paraprofessional staff had an Asian culture retreat in Chinatown on October 2.

**Training:** Spanish classes are currently being conducted in two locations: Matteson and Countryside. Staff can take either a beginning or an Intermediate class. This is the third year we have offered Spanish classes, and will offer it again next spring.

**Professional Staff Retreat:** Professional Staff had a retreat September 25 and 26 at the Hyatt Regency on Wacker Drive in Chicago. The focus of the retreat was the U.S. in the year 2050.

**State Advisory Council Report:** Tanesha Pittman reported that the state advisory council will be meeting October 13 and 14 in Champaign at the Hilton Garden Inn. She anticipates that discussion will center on the state budget, and what to present to leaders when next they visit with political leaders.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Friday, April 10, 2009, at the Clubhouse in Oak Brook.

**Adjournment:** It was moved (Kosmach) and seconded (Dahlfors) to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Motion carried.