Regional Associations

Who, Where, When, Why and What

H. Michael Harrington

Executive Director

Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

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Early History

- The Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations (Oct. 1887)
- ESCOP [http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/escop/](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/escop/)
  - The oldest of the “COPs”, formed in 1905 with 6 Directors who monitored the system and developed administrative mechanisms
  - Formed, in part, to meet the need to plan and organize research and to make results accessible
Regional Designation

- “Regional” affiliations based on common geography and problems
Why?

- The Research and Marketing Act of 1946 set aside 25% of Title 1, Section 9 (Hatch funds) for regional research.
- This resulted in the regional associations being formally constituted over the next two years.
NERA
Est. 1947

Dr. Tom Fretz, Executive Director
Ms. Rubie Mize, Admin. Assistant
www.agnr.umd.edu/users/NERA/

- WV
- MD
- PA
- NY
- NJ
- DE
- DC
- CT
- RI
- MA
- NH
- VT
- ME

[Map of the Northeast United States]
NCRA

Est. 1947

Dr. Daryl B. Lund, Executive Director
Ms. Nicole Nelson, Admin. Assistant
www.wisc.edu/ncra/

- ND
- MO
- SD
- WI
- NE
- IL
- KS
- IN
- MN
- OH
- IA
- MI

[Map of Midwestern states]
SAAESD  Est. 1946

Dr. Eric Young, Executive Director
Ms. Donna Pearce, Admin. Assistant
http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/saaesd/

- OK
- TX
- LA
- MS
- AL
- AR
- GA
- FL
- SC
- NC
- TN
- KY
- VA
- PR
- VI
History

- WAAESD hires “Recording Secretary” (1960)
- The first “Directors at Large”
  - George Browning, NCRA (Apr. 1966)
  - Louis E. Hawkins, SAAESD (Oct. 1966)
  - Mark Buchanan, WAAESD (Feb. 1967)
  - Henry R. Fortmann*, NERA (fall 1967)
- DAL to Executive Director (1991-92)

* “Regional Coordinator”
Structure and Operations

- Bylaws/Rules of Operation
- Chair and Executive Committee
- Multistate Review Committee
- Regional Office
  - Executive Director
  - Administrative Assistant
- A portfolio of multistate projects
  - Research projects
  - Coordinating Committees, ERAs, DCs, etc.
- Region-wide support
Activities

- Organize, coordinate and manage multistate activities
- Facilitate project development
- Plan and conduct project reviews
- Manage the region’s portfolio of active projects
- Assure that Region’s needs and perspectives are presented
Regional Offices

- Executive Director, Administrative Assistant
- Oversee and facilitate regional portfolio and other activities
- Liaison with USDA CSREES multistate programs office
- Maintain Association minutes and project records
- Serve as the administrators of the National Information Management Support System (NIMSS) [http://www.nimss.umd.edu/](http://www.nimss.umd.edu/)
Executive Director

Regional Responsibilities
- Facilitate agendas, regional partnerships, planning and special projects
- Oversee and facilitate regional portfolio and other activities
- Facilitate program accountability
- Liaison with USDA-CSREES
- Develop communications on behalf of the region
- Facilitate communications and keep members informed
- Represent Directors on Boards and Committees
Executive Director

- National Responsibilities
  - Provide staff support to standing committees of ESCOP (and BAA as needed)
  - Work with USDA-CSREES, APHIS, ARS, etc
  - Link with NASULGC efforts
  - Special task forces, initiatives, position papers
  - Represent Directors on Boards (e.g. NIAS)
  - Facilitate communications and keep members informed
  - National Multistate Coordinating Committee
Western Region

- Western Directors office is jointly supported by AES, CES and academic programs (AP)
- Special efforts to integrate R, E and I into the multistate portfolio
- Multistate review committee (RCIC) comprised of AES, CES and AP Directors
Interesting Reading

- State Agricultural Experiment Stations
  *A History of Research Policy and Procedure*
  Knoblach, Law and Meyer (1962)
- The Legacy - A Centennial History of the State Agricultural Experiment Stations
  Kerr (1987)