



Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

In the next couple of weeks you'll see a number of virtual meetings on the calendar. We're hosting a NERA work session on October 20. Details can be found in the first action item. The beginning of November has routinely been the time of the Annual APLU Meeting. To that end, the APLU meeting will be held virtually this year (November 9-11.) Check out the second bullet in *Reminders* below. Sessions that were typically associated with the APLU meeting (e.g., the Awards Ceremony, the ESCOP Executive Meeting and the Board on Agriculture Assembly Business Meeting) are scheduled outside of the November 9-11 slot. We share the times and registration links for these virtual meetings in the second action item.

Last, we wanted to share our admiration for the leadership that each of you have provided during the past 8 months. You are strong and resilient: it's been an honor to work with and for you.

"I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance, Never settle for the path of least resistance..." -Mark Sanders and Tia Sellers, 2000, *I Hope You Dance*, MCA Music Publishing and performed by Lee Ann Womack.

### Action items:

- A NERA work session titled "COVID and Finance Workarounds" moderated by Jody Jellison and Eric Wommack is scheduled for tomorrow, October 20, at 9:00-10:00 AM ET. To connect, please use the NERA Zoom link at <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008>. The passcode (all caps) is NERA. The discussion will explore workarounds on both the revenue and expense sides of the ledger.
- There are several virtual meetings that we want to bring to your attention. These are associated with the Annual APLU meeting but do not require you to register for the APLU meeting. While each of the sessions that follow require registration, the registration is free.
  1. On October 28, the APLU is hosting their annual awards ceremony "A Community of Scholars Celebrating Excellence: CES and ESS Awards Presentation and Seaman A. Knapp Memorial Lecture." This event celebrates both Extension and Experiment Station Awards and requires [registration](#) (which is free.) Adel Shirmohammadi will be receiving the Northeast's Excellence in Leadership Award.
  2. The ESCOP Executive Committee is holding a session on October 27 from 1:00-3:30 PM ET. [Registration](#) is required and is free.
  3. The Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) Business Meeting is meeting on November 12 from 3:30-5:30 PM ET. [Registration](#) is required and is free.

- We will be circulating an Experiment Station Section ballot shortly. (This is a follow up item from the last newsletter and ESS Meeting.) There will be three items on the ballot. The first item is an ask from the CMC seeking \$100,000 per section (Administrative Heads, Cooperative Extension and the Experiment Station) for two years to support dedicated staff to run the communications and marketing project. As your Executive Director, I recommend approval. The other two ballot items relate to the Experiment Station Section assessment. Of those, one item is strictly editorial: renaming the ESS assessment from the CMC Assessment to the Annual Assessment. I recommend approval. The third ballot issue revolves around the ESS assessment. You will be given a choice to suspend the assessment for two years or reduce the assessment for two years (i.e., reduce the annual assessment from its current level of \$200,000 to \$100,000.) You'll see in materials associated with the ballot, that the Experiment Station Section can absorb the suspension of the assessment through use of carryover funds and tapping a cash reserve account (if needed). The rub on this ballot item is that passage of one of the two choices must be by a 2/3 majority. Based on the financial news that I've heard from the region, I recommend suspending the assessment.

---

### *Reminders/Updates:*

- For the first time in its 133-year history, the APLU Annual Meeting will be held virtually, from November 9-11, 2020. The theme for the meeting is "Resilience and Equity", here's the link to [register](#). As an APLU member, registration is \$45.
- The [notes](#) for the September 22, 2020 NERA business meeting are posted. Check them out!
- Thanks to those of you who've sent station pictures. We continue to seek shots of NERA institutions for the NERA website. Please forward those to [David](#).

---

### *Informational items:*

- Save the Date! The National Science Foundation (NSF) will hold for the first time, the [NSF Virtual Grants Conference](#), during the weeks of November 16 and November 30, 2020. Registration will be free of charge and opens on Thursday, October 29 at 12 p.m. EST.
- The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development is seeking applications for a [non-tenure track Assistant Research Professor position](#). The position is renewable annually conditional on funding, with a 25% Research and 75% Extension split.
- *Second time:* The USDA's Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement, in collaboration with the Regional Rural Development Centers, is inviting you to join a multi-day virtual workshop on Building Community Capacity around Housing on November 5 and 6, 2-4:30 PM ET. This event is designed for community organizers and planners that work on this important topic on a state or community level and [registration](#) is now open.



Follow @NERASAES on Twitter

Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)

[www.nerasaes.org](http://www.nerasaes.org)

14 East Farm Road

Aquaculture Center

University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881

Executive Director, [Dr. Richard C. Rhodes III](#): (401) 874-2468

Coordinator, [David Leibovitz](#): (401) 874-4801

NERA and its member institutions are committed to the principles of affirmative action, diversity, and inclusion.

Please do not reply directly to this MailChimp message.