**Minutes – IEEA Advancement Committee Zoom Meeting – April 27, 2021**

Those on the call were Bill Horan, Chair; Chelsie Jaramillo, Vice Chair; Caren Crum, Secretary; Tonya Short, Past Chair; Kyle Weaver, Cindy Barber, Betsy Coffing, Jane Ann Beard, Joan Grott, Kelly Heckaman, MaryJo Moncheski, and Jennifer Haynes.

Bill started the meeting with introductions. He also reiterated the goal of our committee is advocating for the professional well-being of the IEEA membership.

We set dates for our committee meetings for the remainder of 2021. Just to be consistent we plan to meet the first Wednesday of the even numbered months, so our meetings will be June 2nd, August 4th, October 6th, and December 1st at 1 pm.

The two issues that were identified and we are focusing our attention on are “Remote Work” and “Mental Health” of Educators.

Regarding working remotely, several points were brought up and need to be addressed, including: consistent guidelines or ground rules across the state, the importance of good communication with all staff, and the fine line between flexibility and abuse of privilege. We realize that much about working remotely is evolving now, but we want to keep this a part of our work culture going forward.

Regarding the topic of mental health and stress of Educators, many areas of concern were brought up. From the Extension standpoint, there is certainly a lot of need for empathy and support for our fellow staff members. Obviously, work - life balance is an issue, and the pressure to meet goals and anxiety about expectations and evaluations topped the list of some of the stressors we are experiencing. The term “motivation slump” described the situation with kids, adult volunteers and even Educators. We realize there is also another IEEA Committee focusing on Educator well-being as well, so we will begin a discussion with them about how we can best deal with this topic.

Bill Horan gave this as his report during the IEEA Business Meeting of Spring Conference.

Respectfully submitted, Caren Crum, Secretary of the IEEA Advancement Committee