



MINUTES
SouthEast Regional Directors Institute
Council of Peers Annual Meeting
May 19, 2021

Council of Peers Attendees:

Lori Corley (Ala.)	Andy Crosson (Ga.)	Robert Hiett (N.C.)
Greg Clark (Ala.)	Amy Kennedy (Ky.)	Ron Mitchum (S.C.)
Sasha Grist (Ark.)	Mike Burress (Ky.)	Wayne Strickland (Va.)
Pat Steed (Fla.)	John Byers (Miss.)	Martha Heeter (Va.)
Scott Koons (Fla.)	Anthony Starr (N.C.)	Kevin Byrd (Va.)
Chris Rietow (Fla.)	David Richardson (N.C.)	Brandon Davis (Va.)
Carol Jackson (W.Va.)	Danna Stansbury (N.C.)	Eric Sexton (Ky.)

Others in Attendance:

Jim Livingston (Ga.)	Christine Jacobs (Va.)	Alec Brebner (Va.)
Jan Smith (Ark.)	Lee Worsley (N.C.)	Melinda Goode (Tenn.)
Nathan Ramsey (N.C.)	Beth Payne (Fla.)	Kelly Ward (Ky.)
Tom Lanahan (Fla.)	Jim Youngquist	

I. Call to Order

**Anthony Starr, President,
SERDI Council of Peers**

SERDI Council of Peers President, Anthony Starr welcomed Council of Peers members and others in attendance to the 2021 Annual Meeting of the SouthEast Regional Directors Institute Council of Peers.

II. Welcome to New Members

President Starr

President Starr welcomed the two newest members of the Council of Peers. Susan O'Neill is the Executive Director of the Upper Shore Regional Council in Chestertown, Maryland. Brandon Davis is the Executive Director of the Northern Shenandoah Regional Commission in Front Royal, Virginia. President Starr noted that Brandon will be taking the opening left by the retirement of former SERDI President and long-time Council of Peers member Wayne Strickland who will retire from Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission June 30th. He applauded Wayne for his many years of service and friendship. President Starr also noted that there remain two openings on the Council for Tennessee members.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTORS INSTITUTE

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III. Introduction of All Present

President Starr

Introductions of all those present.

IV. Membership Report

**Martha Heeter, Vice President
SERDI Council of Peers**

Vice President Martha Heeter referred to the 2021 SERDI Membership Roster. She noted that there were 87 members for 2021. Arkansas has 100% Membership. Kentucky and North Carolina both had 12 members.

V. Financial Report

**Carol Jackson, Treasurer
SERDI Council of Peers**

SERDI Treasurer Carol Jackson presented the SERDI Financial Report as of April 30th. She reviewed the statement of revenues and expenses and an ending Fund Balance of \$122,524. SERDI Council of Peers member Scott Koons (Fla.) noted a differing amount of dues collected as compared to what should have been collected. Carol went back and updated the statement to reflect the appropriate membership for 2021.

VI. Officers Nominating Committee Report

**Pat Steed, Chair Nominating
Committee; and President
Starr**

President Starr called on Pat Steed (Fla.) Chair of the Nominating Committee to provide their report. Pat called everyone's attention to her memorandum of April 19, 2021, that she had sent to the Council of Peers.

She first thanked President Starr for his outstanding leadership and guidance of SERDI during his two years as president. She thanked the members of the Nominating Committee: Kevin Byrd (Va.) and Sasha Grist (Ark.) who worked with her.

She noted that she, Grist, and Byrd met on April 19, 2021, at 9:00 AM Eastern/8:00 AM Central by Zoom to follow the Bylaws and Nominate the Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer for a period of two years or until successors are elected and qualified.

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On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Chair Steed put forward the following Council members for Officer positions for the next two years:

President, Martha Heeter, PlanRVA, Richmond, Va.
Vice President, Randy Imler, Catawba Regional Council of Governments, Rock Hill, S.C.
Secretary/Treasurer, Carol Jackson, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council, Parkersburg, W.Va.

President Starr thanked the Nominating Committee for their work. President Starr asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the Nominating Committee report was accepted by acclamation.

President Starr congratulated the new officers. He thanked the Council for letting him serve as President for the last two years and for their support of him in the leadership position. He asked each of the new officers for comments which they provided. President Starr continued to preside until Friday afternoon at the business meeting.

VII. Staff Report

Jim Youngquist, Staff to SERDI

Jim Youngquist, Staff to SERDI, stated that due to COVID it had been a slow year for council assessments and executive searches. One assessment which also included a succession plan was completed for the Southside Planning District Commission in South Hill, Va. Inquiries were made by two different Virginia districts considering using SERDI for executive searches but did not. Buckeye Hills Regional Council has requested a proposal to conduct their executive search as Misty Crosby will be retiring in 2022.

Jim also noted the success of the New Directors Training that was completed on the preceding Monday and Tuesday. There were 35 participants.

Finally, he noted that SERDI would be conducting a council assessment for Western Piedmont Council of Governments in Hickory, N.C. The assessment will be conducted late summer-early fall.

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VIII. Quarterly Zoom Meetings of a Focused Discussion President Starr

President Starr introduced the idea of beginning Quarterly Zoom Discussion Meetings of not to exceed 1 hour in length. COVID-19 had forced us to get used to virtual meetings. As a result, the Council felt that doing a focused discussion virtually quarterly would allow members to get together for general updates then focus on the discussion topic of the day. Consideration was given to seeing if the region's state associations would rotate responsibility for volunteering to host a decided upon topic of interest. The suggestion of creating a quarterly meeting was responded to positively. It was noted that it would be one more offering of SERDI for membership.

IX. SERDI Council of Peers Fall Planning Meeting President Starr

President Starr announced that the Fall Planning Meeting would take place November 4-5 at Sandestin in Miramar Beach, Florida. The meeting will begin with a reception and dinner at 6 PM on Thursday November 4th and will conclude by Noon on Friday November 5th. Vicki Glass is working with Sandestin on setting up a room block for November 3 through Nov 7 for those that may want to come in before and/or stay after. For new members, President Starr stated that the Fall Planning Meeting focuses on building the agendas for the next year's agendas for both the Annual Professional Development Conference and the New Executive Directors Training as well as the staffing and administrative services contract for the next fiscal year.

X. Other Business

There being no other business, the annual meeting of the SERDI Council of Peers was adjourned.

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