

**Minutes**  
**Kentucky Agricultural Council, Inc.**  
**Members Meeting**  
**August 18, 2022**  
**Kentucky Expo Center, Louisville**

A Kentucky Ag Council Members Meeting was called to order by Chairman Drew Graham at 12:04 pm EDT following the lunch sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America. Members, representatives, and guests present: 67.

Graham asked Jennifer Elwell to present the minutes from June 9, 2022, that were provided to members via email and made available via a digital link. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Niki Ellis, KAC Treasurer, presented the financial report through the end of July 2022. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. Motion passed.

Graham made a special presentation to Mark Barker (Farm Credit Mid-America), thanking him for his four years of service as the Kentucky Agricultural Council chairman.

David Back, CEO of Kentucky Venues, was invited to give an update on the Kentucky State Fair. He said they anticipated 600,000 visitors and were excited about the changes, including moving the Kentucky Proud Cookout Tent to the front of the fairgrounds. He also thanked the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and the Kentucky General Assembly for allowing them to make updates to the facilities.

Graham introduced the new Kentucky FFA President, Benjamin Williams.

Graham invited Commissioner Ryan Quarles to provide a Kentucky Department of Agriculture update and introduce the new Miss Kentucky, Hannah Edelen. Highlights included:

- He thanked the employees of Kentucky Venues, Cooperative Extension, KDA, and all the sponsors for supporting the Kentucky State Fair.
- Raising Hope is a mental health awareness initiative for the agricultural community, and the program is made possible through a grant from USDA.
- A local food system grant of \$5.4 million was received.
- National issues include input costs, inflation, and the 2023 Farm Bill. Local issues include taxes, the new Woodford County education center, and broadband internet.
- The County Fair Cost-share program is available through KDA; there are 90 county fairs held in Kentucky.
- Quarles provided an update on fundraising for the eastern Kentucky flood victims and western Kentucky tornado victims; \$1.6 million was raised through the KDA/KFB Relief Fund.

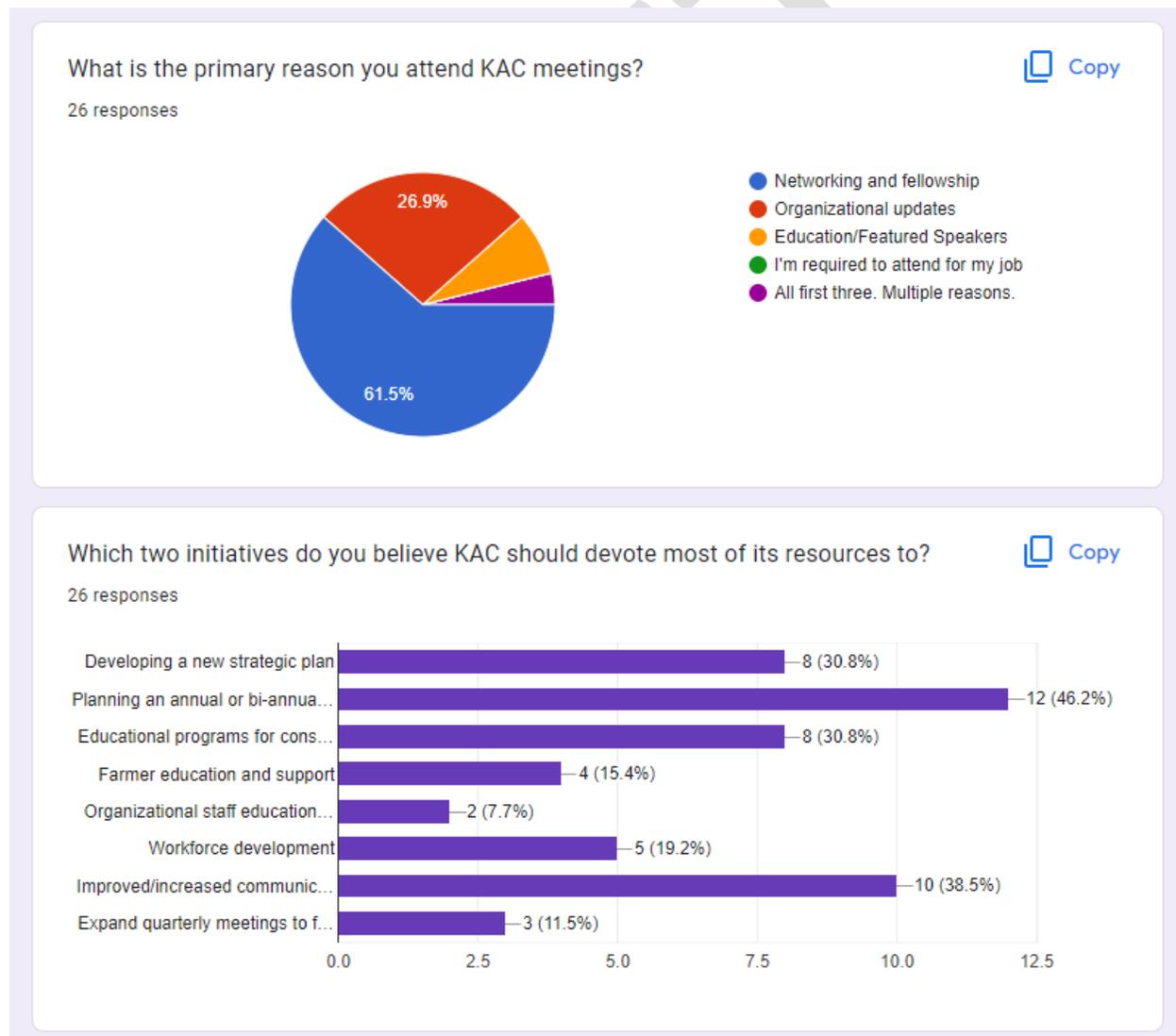
Eddie Melton, Kentucky Farm Bureau's 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, provided a KFB update. He announced that Ed McQueen and Joe Cain in the Commodity Division were retiring, and Kyle Kelley will step into the role of Commodity Director while continuing to oversee Policy. He also noted that the Kentucky Center of Agricultural and Rural Development is seeking to hire a new executive director.

Graham introduced Kentucky FSA Director Dean Schamore and asked him to give a report. Schamore introduced his staff and the FSA State Committee:

- Committee Chair John McCauley - Lexington
- Carrie Devine - Morganfield
- Pat Henderson - Irvington
- James Kay, Sr. - Versailles
- Roger Thomas – Smiths Grove

Representative Richard Heath gave a brief update on the Joint Agriculture Committee meetings held in June and July and legislative priorities. He said the solar panel bills died but will be front and center in 2023. Soil conservation legislation that allowed the purchase of equipment was passed but vetoed. Legislation was also introduced to change the age of soil conservation board members, but it did not receive a hearing. They plan to bring it back up.

KAC Executive Secretary provided an informational presentation on KAC’s history and polled members where they would like KAC to devote its resources.



With no further business to be conducted, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. EDT. Motion passed.