



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Wisconsin County Extension Committee Chairs

**FROM:** Mark O'Connell, Executive Director, Wisconsin Counties Association

**DATE:** August 10, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Benefits of WEXA/Dues Payment

In September of 2018, following the significant restructuring undertaken by UW-Extension, the Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committees (WACEC) approached the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) requesting that WCA assume the administrative responsibilities associated with WACEC that were formerly performed by UW-Extension. WCA has agreed to provide these administrative services, which include meeting logistics, preparation and distribution of agendas and minutes, as well as act as fiscal agent. WCA and WACEC engaged the services of legal counsel for the proper dissolution of WACEC and creation of a new entity called the Wisconsin Extension Association (WEXA).

We are pleased to report that the process for organizing WEXA is nearly complete. In early January 2020, the interim WEXA Board of Directors met and officially transferred all of the assets of WACEC to WEXA and entered into an agreement with WCA to provide administrative and fiscal services. WCA receives no funds for such services. All WEXA funds are expended by the WEXA Board for purposes determined by the Board.

WEXA is organized as an unincorporated nonprofit association dedicated to providing a forum for the consideration of issues affecting Wisconsin counties related to UW-Extension. The members of WEXA are all 72 counties. WEXA provides an opportunity for Wisconsin county board committees that are responsible for oversight and policy related to UW-Extension to get together to discuss education and programming at the county level.

In order to support its mission, WEXA incurs costs associated with meetings and conferences. The costs are not significant, but it is important to have county support for the mission, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing a forum for discussion on issues relating to the relationship between counties and UW-Extension;

- Providing leadership and extension programming;
- Serving as a liaison between the counties and the UW system;
- Providing advice to the state of Wisconsin relevant to UW-Extension programming; and
- Elevating and educating an understanding of extension.

WEXA is the place to start when looking for a connection between your county government and UW-Extension. Serving as a liaison for counties, WEXA can connect county representatives with leaders at the state level in areas impacting UW-Extension programming, education, and more. The association provides leadership in the identification and initiation of new extension programs in rural and urban areas and in carrying out existing programs within your county. WEXA further facilitates communication between county board representatives and leaders at UW-Extension in respect to county extension programs.

**The 2020 WEXA dues are \$50 per county.** On behalf of WEXA, we ask you, as Chair of the Extension committee in your county, to shepherd the attached invoice through your county process ensuring a continued close connection between UW-Extension, the UW System, and your county.

As Chair of your Extension committee, we make the assumption that you are the WEXA representative for your county however, if you prefer to select an alternative representative, please let us know.

The Wisconsin Extension Association acts as the voice of all county extension committees and will take that voice to the UW System and beyond.