South Central Chapter Report

The South Central ARPAS Chapter was formed in the fall of 2014 by Phillip Smith and consists of the following officers:

President—Ryon S. Walker, Louisiana State University AgCenter,
President Elect—Shane Gadberry, University of Arkansas,
Secretary–Treasurer—Daniel Rivera, Mississippi State University,
Director Arkansas—Beth Kegley, University of Arkansas,
Director Louisiana—Guillermo Scaglia, Louisiana State University AgCenter,
Director Oklahoma—Robert Wells, Noble Foundation, and
Director Texas—Jason Banta, Texas AgriLife Extension.

The committee met for the first time at the 2015 Southern Section Meetings in Atlanta, Georgia, to discuss goals and future activities.

It is the goals of this committee to focus on future activities that enhance membership in ARPAS, particularly the South Central Chapter, and to ensure that members are getting value out of their membership. The committee has decided that for the first year there will be no membership dues to get the chapter started and current members interested. It will likely apply a membership starting in 2016.

It has been decided that the first objective is to work with the Four States Cattle Conference, held every December in Texarkana, Arkansas, for programming and as a meeting place for committee members.

The committee is still trying to decide whether the Four States Conference or Southern Section Animal Science Meetings would be a good venue as our annual meeting.

For 2015 the South Central Chapter will be hosting a graduate student oral competition for students submitting abstracts to the 2016 Southern Section Meetings. This competition will be held at the Four States Cattle Conference on December 8, 2015 (Four States Fairgrounds in Texarkana, AR) and will be open to any graduate student who is working with livestock that has submitted an abstract to the Southern Section Meetings. Graduate students must be an ARPAS member or willing to take the test at the Four States Conference. This will allow students to practice giving their presentation before giving it at Southern Section, regardless if they are in the graduate student competition. In addition, students will be evaluated by a selected team of judges that will also provide criticism to the students. Based on a scoring from a panel of judges, there will be a first, second, and third place announced, and the first-place student will be awarded a $500 travel scholarship to go toward their expenses to the Southern Section Meeting. This travel scholarship is donated by the Four States Cattle Conference.

The competition will be open to students, faculty, industry, and producers to listen to new and current research going on in the field of animal science. More information will be provided in early fall. Information will be sent out to faculty prior to Southern Section Meeting abstract deadlines to encourage abstract submission to Southern Section and attendance to the Four States Cattle Conference.

Sincerely,

Ryon S. Walker