

Outstanding Young Farmer Program: Another Opportunity for NACAA Members

Stephen Komar, Chair, Agricultural Issues and Public Relations Committee

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of membership in The National Association of County Agricultural Agents is the fellowship we share with other agricultural professionals from across the country. This interaction allows us the opportunity to share ideas, work collaboratively and develop relationships that not only make us all better educators, but often result in friendships that last long beyond our careers in Extension. Regardless of our specific roles in Extension, we all share a love of helping the residents in our communities to be more productive farmers, homeowners and citizens. This commitment to excellence is shared by our producers as well. As educators it is important that we have a role in recognizing the excellent work that our clientele conduct in our communities.

One such opportunity to recognize our clientele is through our organizations role in the Outstanding Young Farmers Program. Accepting the first group of national winners in 1955, the OYF program is the oldest farmer recognition program in the United States. This program is administered by the Outstanding Farmers of America fraternity. This fraternity of outstanding farmers and ranchers boasts a membership of over 1,500 members from all across the country. The mission and vision of the OYF program are :

"To be the premier recognition program by celebrating the diversity, productivity and efficiency of today's agricultural professionals."

"To be a Positive Voice in Agriculture by fostering Strong Relationships by offering the best opportunities in Education and Networking and recognizing efforts in Land Stewardships, Community Involvement and Modern Business Practices."

The OYF program encourages a greater interest in agriculture both by the agricultural community and non-farmers alike by highlighting

young farmer's contributions to agricultural science, the community and the country.

The OYF program continues to be one of the core programmatic responsibilities of the NACAA Agricultural Issues and Public Relations Committee. This past year I had the privilege of joining Mr. Stan Moore, NACAA Past President, Michigan, at the OYF congress in Springdale Arkansas. We were both proud to represent NACAA at this event and were extremely impressed with the outstanding candidates from all across the United States. This year was extra special as a farmer from my home county in New Jersey was named as one of the national winners. The OYF is coordinated by The Outstanding Young Farmers of America Fraternity, the United States Chamber of Commerce, and the NACAA with corporate sponsorship provided by John Deere. As Members of NACAA, we all have the opportunity to nominate a local young farmer for this prestigious award. The deadline to nominate for the coming years program is **August 1, 2012**. I highly encourage every NACAA member to take part in this outstanding program. For more information please visit: <http://ofafaternity.org/>



From Left: Andrew & Karlie Bowman, IL; Troy & Bobbie Uglem, ND; Stan Moore, NACAA Past President; Joy & Duce Tallamy, NJ; Renee & Brian Schaal, WI.

Additional Programs Announced for Charleston AM/PIC

Essentials for Conducting Successful On-Farm Research

Sunday, July 15, 2012, 1:45 – 4:45 PM

Participants in this session will learn essentials for planning, conducting and evaluating on-farm research/demonstration projects while building positive relationships with partnering farmers. In addition, NACAA members will present on recent successful on-farm research projects. This session will be conducted on Sunday, July 15, from 1:45 to 4:45.

Farm to School Session

Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 10:30 AM – 1:15 PM

Farm to School programs connect schools (K-12) and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, and supporting local and regional farmers. This session will be led by Emily Jackson with the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project, lead agency for Southeast Region Farm to School programs. Participants will learn about national, regional and state Farm to School initiatives, and will explore the important role that Cooperative Extension can have in the development of local Farm to School programs. Extension personnel interested in Farm to School programs are also invited to attend the Farm to Cafeteria Conference scheduled for August 2-5, 2012 in Burlington, VT (www.farmtocafeteriaconference.org).

Managing Agricultural Risks

Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

The Ag Economics Committee is happy to present a “Super Seminar” on “Managing Agricultural Risks” as part of the 2012 AM/PIC. This session is targeted toward understanding the implications of the 2012 Farm Bill and how extension agents can assist producers in understanding the implications of this emerging legislation. This super seminar will be conducted on Wednesday, July 18, from 1:00 to 4:00.



It's Finer in South Carolina!

The County Agent is a publication of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents
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The County Agent

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Volume LXXIII No. 2 July, 2012 The County Agent

(ISSN 0164-3932) (USPS 0134-900) is published four times per year (Dec., April, July, Oct.) by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, 6584 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756. Subscription price is \$10.00 annually and is included as part of an active member's dues. Periodical Class postage paid at Jefferson City, MO.

Submit articles and photos to Greendell Publishing at the address listed above.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

The County Agent - National Association of County Agricultural Agents
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McGill to give Inspirational Address at Opening Ceremony

J. Frank McGill will be addressing NACAA AM/PIC participants at the 2012 Opening Ceremony on July 15, 2012 in Charleston, SC. With over 50 years of professional service to World agriculture, his inspirational address will most definitely be something you won't want to miss.



McGill was born on a small family farm and began his service to Georgia, American and world agriculture as a county agent in Southwest Georgia.

After serving as a county agent, he became Georgia's Extension peanut specialist for 28 years, after which he was a peanut consultant for M&M/Mars for 16 years, to insure that nothing but the highest quality peanut gets

in the Snicker bar. He then ended his professional career at USDA's National Peanut Research Laboratory in Dawson, GA, developing a computer model of the peanut plant. Ironically, this is where he began his career in 1951 as a county agent.

During his career, McGill has received more than 40 state, national and international awards including NACAA's Service to American/World Agriculture and induction into UGA's Hall of Fame. He is author of a book entitled From the Mule to the Moon and has conducted short-term peanut feasibility studies in 21 Third World countries at no expense to US taxpayers. His most recent honor was serving as a technical advisor for "Modern Miracles" on the History Channel in Los Angeles, CA. This production was a documentary on George Washington Carver which has been televised around the world.

McGill currently holds a UGA Brooks Distinguished Professorship of Agronomy (Emeritus) and is reported to be the last faculty member so named who does not have a Ph.D.

Today McGill and his wife of 60 years, Janet, are very active in their local church and community affairs. They also co-operate a small 180-acre peanut and cotton farm and are the proud grandparents of 17 grandchildren.

Commissioner Gary W. Black to present Capstone Address

Commissioner Gary W. Black is the sixteenth Georgian to hold the office of Commissioner of Agriculture since the department's inception in 1874. He began his career with the Georgia Farm Bureau leading the young farmer leadership development program. He served 21 years as president of the Georgia Agribusiness Council, a chamber-like organization representing all facets of Georgia's food and fiber industry.

During his career, Black led the development of AgriTrust of Georgia, a renowned workers' compensation insurance program for farmers and agricultural businesses. He has championed sound policies throughout Georgia ranging from private property rights to food safety, and from lower taxes to science-based environmental stewardship.

Commissioner Black is an active supporter of agricultural programs that expand opportunities for young people. He serves in advisory capacities for 4H and FFA. As a student, Black served as State FFA President in 1975-76.

Black earned a degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in 1980 and is a past president of the college's alumni society. He

would rather be referred to as Lydia's husband and Ward and Caroline's dad. Lydia teaches family and consumer science at Jackson County High School. Ward is a development coordinator for the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Caroline is an Agricultural Communications Masters student at Texas A&M University. The family is active at Maysville Baptist Church where Black serves in the music and adult Sunday school ministries.



An Opportunity for Animal Science Professionals

Ron Graber
Chair, Animal Science Committee
rgrab@ksu.edu

Do you consider yourself an animal science professional? Are you seeking additional recognition of your animal science expertise, continuing professional development, documented ethical standards, and increased public confidence? If so, the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) may be for you. ARPAS is the organization which provides certification of animal scientists through examination, continuing education, and commitment to a code of ethics. ARPAS membership is available to county extension educators. ARPAS certification exams will be offered to NACAA members during the 2012 AM/PIC on Wednesday, July 18, 1:30 PM (location to be announced your AM/PIC program). Exams are also available on an appointment basis during the AM/PIC. Additional information, including sample exam questions, is available on the ARPAS website (<http://www.arpas.org/>).

All successful certification and licensing programs are targeted to serve and protect the public's interest. More government regulations and controls require that practicing professionals establish accountability by means of registry and certification programs. In today's business climate, producer and industry clients want assurance that they are getting advice from certified professionals who stay on the cutting edge. By completing the requirements of registration, maintaining your continuing education units, and adhering to the code of ethics, ARPAS registration provides you with a new level of recognition to help distinguish yourself to your clientele as a Professional Animal Scientist (PAS). Members also receive the Professional Animal Scientist journal. ARPAS membership is required to publish in the Professional Animal Scientist.

ARPAS is a society formed to strengthen and promote professional and ethical consultation and teaching for animal scientists and animal product specialists through profession certification. It is a self-governing, self-supporting organization with affiliation with the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA), American Meat Science Association (AMSA), American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), Equine Science Society (ESS), and Poultry Science Association (PSA).

Levels of certification for Professional Animal Scientist (PAS) are based on degree, experience, examination, and Continuing Education Units (CEU's). A key component of qualifying for membership in ARPAS is passing a comprehensive examination. Currently, ARPAS offers qualifying exams in 13 species or product areas: aquaculture, beef cattle, companion animals, dairy cattle, horses, laboratory animals, poultry, sheep, goats, swine, meat science, dairy product science, and poultry products. Each exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions that represent a random draw from a data bank of questions for that area of specialization. Sample questions can be found on the ARPAS website.

Annual membership dues are \$85 (electronic journal only) or \$165 (electronic journal plus printed copies). A \$25 non-fundable per specie exam fee is required. The first \$25 will be applied to your membership fee. College transcripts are required to complete the application. To maintain registration, 16 hours of CEU's are required each year. One CEU equals one hour of participation in an approved educational event. For extension educators, meeting the CEU requirement is not difficult.

Professional certification programs have two major objectives. One is to provide professional recognition to members for their professional expertise and achievements. The other is to provide assurance to the public being served that they have confidence that the certified professionals providing professional service for them have a high level of professional expertise, are professionally current, and practice a high level of professional ethics.

We are experiencing increased interest in both the private and public sectors for professional certification. Some universities are now requiring graduating animal science seniors to complete an ARPAS exam. Check out the ARPAS website. If you have questions please feel free to contact the ARPAS office or myself. To register for the exam attend the Animal Science Committee meeting on Monday afternoon of the AM/PIC or email me prior to the meetings. Join the growing ranks of extension animal science educators that have received recognition of their animal science expertise through certification with ARPAS.

2012 NACAA REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

NACAA President Paul Wigley, Georgia



The time is rapidly drawing near when we will gather for the 97th Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in Charleston, South Carolina. I hope you are making your plans to be with us July 15 – 19, 2012. It promises to be a meeting to remember. Last year in Kansas the membership was informed of a new futuring survey that would be conducted. The results have been compiled and the futuring committee chaired by Jim Ochterski of New York has performed the sizable task of taking the data and giving a report to the board of directors. We will share the findings of the survey at this year's delegate session. During my remarks to the membership last year I stated that NACAA would evaluate the current committee structure and see if any changes needed to be made. This is one of the areas addressed by the futuring committee report. Vice President Dorough is heading the effort to evaluate our committee structure and make recommendations for change. These were two items that were addressed at last year's AM/PIC that your board of directors had worked on during the past year. Projects this big cannot be completed in a short period of time but we are diligently working to better our organization.

Another item that was brought forward from the futuring committee was an idea for "Fireside Chats". This would be informal gatherings where members could discuss issues of common importance. I have included four of these chats in this year's program. We will have two on Sunday night and two on Monday night. The topics will include Smart Phones and Tablets and their applications for Extension work, The NACAA Scholarship Process Simplified, Social Media and its use in Extension work, and Leadership opportunities in NACAA. I hope you will attend these sessions to not only learn but to share your ideas and thoughts.

During my remarks to the membership last year I mentioned that I thought we needed to re-emphasize the value of on-farm demonstrations and trials as a teaching tool to our clientele. About the same time at the administrator's breakfast this point was brought forward as an area that needed addressing by NACAA. I am proud to say that on Sunday afternoon we will have four hours of programming

dedicated to on-farm demonstrations and trials. We have speakers coming that have extensive expertise in this field. It has tentatively been titled "The Do's and Don'ts of On-Farm Demonstrations and Trials". Once again NACAA is striving to stay relevant to the needs of its members by providing timely and useful seminars to make us better professionals.

The speakers we have lined up for our meeting are an impressive group. On Sunday night the opening session inspirational speaker will be Mr. Frank McGill. Mr. McGill is the retired peanut agronomist for the University of Georgia. During his career Mr. McGill saw production go from mules to large modern equipment and saw yields increase three fold. His experiences in life and his speaking ability make him an entertaining, enlightening, and educational speaker. I know that you will enjoy him. Our keynote speaker for the Monday morning general session is, Dr. Cathie Woteki, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. When I first met Dr. Woteki during the 2011 PILD conference in Washington and was impressed by her knowledge of Extension and agriculture. She had some very good and challenging questions for the NACAA leadership during our meeting. I look forward to hearing her remarks. Our capstone speaker for this year's AM/PIC will be Gary Black, Commissioner of Agriculture for the state of Georgia. Mr. Black is well versed in agriculture and its importance to the economy and the people of our great country. His son is a product of our 4-H program. Mr. Black is a true friend of extension in Georgia and I know you will enjoy meeting him.

If you have registered for the meeting and reviewed the schedule you have noticed that the annual banquet will be on Wednesday and the tours on Thursday. At the conclusion of the tours this year we will have a final session. This will be the official closing of our 2012 conference. The South Carolina Farm Bureau will provide the meal as well as a speaker for the session. Also, you will hear from the Pennsylvania delegation concerning the Galaxy conference to be held in 2013. There will be some live entertainment for your listening pleasure during dinner and after the program.

All in all it promises to be a great meeting. I hope you have already made your plans to join us there for a great week of learning, sharing, and southern hospitality.

**NACAA President-Elect
Paul Craig, Pennsylvania**



Sponsors and Donors are invaluable contributors to your national association. Without the funding from our supporters many of our professional improvement programs and program recognition would not be possible. Many of our supporters are longtime friends of NACAA. Others have been contributing for short periods. This year NACAA is pleased to have two new sponsors, the National Pork Board and National Crop Insurance Services. Unfortunately two other sponsors have indicated that they could not provide financial support in 2012. Still the fact that over \$140,000 was provided to NACAA is a welcome fact. Sponsors and Donors is a responsibility of the President-elect, however NACAA Executive Director Scott Hawbaker provides an invaluable, consistent linkage to the companies and the marketing agencies used by most companies. Members can also assist to maintain the support from our donors. If you attend a sponsored activity at our AM/PIC or if you are fortunate to receive program recognition I would encourage you to send a note of thanks to the sponsor. In addition many sponsorships have originated for NACAA through personal contacts by members. I would encourage you to investigate sponsorship opportunities with any contacts you may have. Check out the NACAA website for additional information.

As President-elect I participated in the JCEP Leadership Conference in San Antonio. Working with the leaders of our complimentary Extension professional associations has been a rewarding personal experience for me. In Texas I was able to share some leadership experiences with NACAA State officers. Following my presentation, one of my best memories was guiding these leaders in the singing of the PA County Agent Song, We are, we are, we are: The County Agent Bunch! The smiles on everyone's faces will be with me for a long time.

In April I attended the PILD conference in Washington DC. While there the leadership of NACAA was able to meet with 3 leaders in USDA: Dr. Kathleen Merrigan, Deputy Secretary; Meryl Brossard, Deputy Director for Agriculture and Natural Resources in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Rod Hedberg, SARE Director. These highly productive visits would not have been possible without the assistance of Bill Hoffman who works directly in the NIFA Office of the Director as a Program and Analysis Officer and a true friend of NACAA.

The members of the PA Association of County Agricultural Agents and the Northeast Region have been working hard in preparation for the 2013 Galaxy Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, September 15 – 20th. These men and women are proud to welcome NACAA to PA in 2013. We hope to see you there.

In January 2012 PACAA members celebrated the dedication of a roadside historical marker to commemorate the hiring of A. B. Ross who started work as the first county agent in Bedford County, PA in 1910. The dedication was held during the 2012 PA Farm Show and was attended by the Dean of PSU College of Ag Sciences; the Director of Penn State Extension and the PA Secretary of Agriculture.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the men and women of your board of directors, the council chairs and committee leaders for NACAA. These individuals take time from their busy programming efforts to provide you with outstanding professional opportunities. You can be sure that your organization is in great hands of dedicated professionals. It has been a career highlight of mine to have the opportunity to work with them for NACAA. I look forward to the opportunity to follow the many outstanding leaders of NACAA in the role of President of NACAA. I ask for your support in this endeavor for the betterment of your organization.

**NACAA Vice President
Henry Dorough, Alabama**



My year serving as your vice president has almost concluded and I can barely believe it has passed so quickly. Looking through NACAA Policy, it is easy to determine the majority of the vice president's time is spent working with the three council chairs to oversee all committee activities throughout the year. Having served previously as southern region director and secretary for NACAA, I thought I knew a lot about committee work. Well, I found out quickly that what I knew was only a part of the picture. I can attest the NACAA committee volunteers enthusiastically devote their time and talent to serve you and to ensure the bulk of the Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference is an enriching and worthwhile experience. I tip my hat to the 21 National Committee Chairs and 73 Regional Committee Vice-Chairs for their eagerness, dedication and excellent leadership provided this year. It has been a great pleasure to work with you.

The vice president chairs the Executive Program Committee which is made up of the three council chairs. This year, Professional Improvement Council chair Mary Sobba, Program Recognition Council chair JJ Jones and Extension Development Council chair Dan Kluchinski have greatly impressed me with their dedication and leadership provided to their respective committees. Every challenge I presented them was handled with professional ease. Working with these three leaders has been an honor and a personally rewarding experience. Thank you Mary, JJ and Dan!

The bulk of committee work revolves around achieving three clear aspects of NACAA’s mission: (1) Providing first-class professional development opportunities tailored specifically for agricultural Extension agents, (2) Recognize and reward professional excellence among our peers and (3) Provide leadership development opportunities. All of these are vitally important for our members to develop relevant programs in their assigned field and to successfully climb the career ladder. More and more, these types of professional opportunities are becoming difficult to find, with the exception of those provided through our committees; not only at the AM/PIC, but also through various webinars during the course of the year. This year, the Extension Development Council committees collectively produced several excellent webinars that are archived on the NACAA website. Other committees are planning webinars to be offered after the AM/PIC in Charleston. Taking advantage of these opportunities has been a positive career changing experience for me, just as they can be for each of you if you take full advantage of everything NACAA has to offer.

During my time serving on your board, I have stressed the importance of communication through all levels of NACAA. This is especially imperative within the committee structure. Like my predecessors, I asked that all national committee chairs and regional vice-chairs communicate on a regular basis with state committee leaders. I was very delighted to receive copies of numerous emails throughout the year between committee leaders at all levels, especially communication engaging state leadership. We should all continuously endeavor to improve communication among all of our leaders and members to ensure we remain relevant and informed.

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone involved with recruiting committee leadership for the ensuing year; especially the council chairs and regional directors for their tireless efforts to guarantee all of our vital committee positions are filled. NACAA committees are the lifeblood of our organization and account for the bulk of the work the national association does on behalf of the membership. With the continued reduction in our

workforce across the country and subsequent decline in membership, these positions are becoming all the more important to the mission of our organization. Committee positions offer excellent leadership opportunities for our members. I encourage all members to seriously consider the various leadership opportunities offered each year within the organization. This includes national leadership positions on the Board of Directors, which are open to ALL members. You don’t have to be an “old-timer” or fit any stereotype to serve your national organization. Feel free to call on me anytime if you are considering a future leadership position in NACAA and I will do all I can to assist you.

In addition to the work described above, I had the privilege of participating in the various board meetings throughout the year and working on numerous presidential assignments. I also attended the JCEP Leadership Conference in San Antonio, TX, and the PILD Conference in Alexandria, VA; two outstanding conferences hosted by JCEP. During the PILD conference, I, along with President Paul Wigley, President-Elect Paul Craig and Past President Stan Moore, had the honor of visiting with USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan along with other leaders of NIFA and SARE.

This has been a year of personal growth and awesome opportunities to interact with and learn from many dedicated leaders within NACAA. I would be remiss if I did not note my deep gratitude to my Alabama colleagues and the ACES leadership team for their support of my service to NACAA. Thank you all for an outstanding experience serving as your NACAA Vice President.

**NACAA Secretary
Richard Fechter, Kansas**



As one that is always looking for challenges, my first year as NACAA Secretary has been all of that and more. Although nothing can totally prepare you for a position on the NACAA Board, serving as 2011 AM/PIC Chair was a good start. Whenever, you start a new job or task, you may think you know what you are getting yourself into, but you never know for sure until you actually start doing the job or task. This is the situation that happened to me this year. However, I wouldn’t trade this years’ experience for anything.

During this first year as your secretary, I devoted a significant amount of time to familiarizing myself with the duties and responsibilities of the position. Fortunately, former NACAA Secretary Henry Dorough is currently serving on the Board, and has been a big asset to me. He

has provided advice and assistance whenever I have asked for it. Yet he has let me do the job.

Many colleagues have asked me why I wanted to be NACAA Secretary because it sounded like a lot of work. Yes it is, but there is not a better way to learn everything about an organization than to be the secretary. As secretary, my primary job is to maintain accurate records of board and association activities and to keep the membership informed. Board meeting minutes are approved and posted on the NACAA website as soon as Policy review requirements are met. Also, there is a linking of all board meeting documents, with the exception of financial reports, as attachments to the minutes posted online. Financial security with the internet is of major concern so the board agreed in March 2010 to classify all financial documents and withhold them from the website. However, all members are entitled to a copy of association fiscal reports and may receive a copy by submitting a request to the NACAA Treasurer.

The NACAA Secretary serves as chair of the internal Publications Committee which provides oversight for content of the NACAA website, The County Agent magazine, the e-County Agent blog and the Journal of NACAA. Stephen Brown of Alaska is the Journal of NACAA Chair and has done an excellent job. With Stephen's leadership, the Journal is now publishing two volumes on June 1 and December 1 of each year. The Journal is a great place for members to publish peer reviewed articles. For more information about the Journal of NACAA, refer to Stephen's report or contact him directly.

The history of any organization is very important for many reasons and NACAA is no different. The secretary is charged with collecting annual historically significant documents for storage at the USDA Agricultural Library. Currently our records are not up to date, but the groundwork has been laid to bring the records up to date. That is one item that I want to work at getting accomplished during my second year.

Electronic communication tools have made the job of the Secretary easier in some ways. However, a big thanks goes to Scott Hawbaker, NACAA Executive Director. Without all of his work and efforts, my job would be much harder.

The many hours that have been reviewing recordings and proofing the write up of minutes prior to posting to the NACAA website has taught me a lot about our association, but also about each of the individuals that make up the Board. The passion and dedication that each of them has for NACAA is truly amazing. What a

great group of people to have the privilege of working with this past year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your NACAA Secretary this past year. I look forward to another challenging and rewarding year. See you in Charleston!

**NACAA Treasurer
Parman Green, Missouri**



I am humbled to have had the honor of serving the members of the NACAA in the capacity of treasurer for the last three years. As I complete my final year as your NACAA treasurer, I am proud of what has been accomplished regarding the financial accounting, compliance, security, and reporting for our organization.

The financial condition of the NACAA is extremely sound. The conservative and frugal management of your current board and prior boards set the stage for substantial growth of the organization's assets. Even during 2008 and 2009 when the market value of the equity investments were decreasing, the overall net worth of NACAA increased. In fact, from the end of 2007 to the end of 2011, total assets increased from \$454,170 to \$850,656.

Maintenance of a good set of financial records is not identified in the mission statement of NACAA. However, relevant, accurate, and timely financial records can greatly facilitate the board's actions in fulfilling the mission of our organization. My primary pledge as a candidate for treasurer was to expend the necessary time to provide accurate, timely, and practical records for the NACAA members and leadership.

An important convention in accounting is consistency. During my term as treasurer, I focused on simplifying and restructuring various facets of our accounting system. The chart of accounts has been simplified and reduced from 14 pages to 7 pages. In this restructuring process I have striven to provide increased simplicity and improved comparability of our financial data. These changes have also greatly facilitated the consistency and efficiency of the reporting process.

Additionally, income and expense transactions are being "classed" or tagged for report filtering by function such as: Operations, AM/PIC, JCEP, PILD, Spring Board, and Winter Board. The real value of a good set of accounting records is the information that can be "mined" from the data – improving the understanding and utilization of our financial records.

Again, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the cooperation and support I have received from the members of this organization – allowing me to serve as your treasurer for three years. This experience has truly been one of the highlights of my extension career. While the work load has been somewhat greater than I anticipated, the rewards “personally and professionally” have been profoundly greater than I anticipated.

Interesting Financial Tidbits:

- AM/PIC expenditures are typically 63.7% of total expenditures.
- JCEP and PILD expenditures are typically 4.3% of total expenditures.
- AM/PIC receipts are typically 62.1% of our total receipts.
- Membership dues are typically 31.8% of total receipts.

**NACAA Past-President
Stan Moore, Michigan**



NACAA members, it has been a privilege to serve you over the last four years. I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for this opportunity and for what I have gained both professionally and personally through my involvement in NACAA. Serving in this role has given me an even greater appreciation for the great work that each of you is doing within Extension in your home state. It has also enabled me to develop close friendships with great people.

In my Past President’s role I was responsible for representing NACAA on the Outstanding Young Farmers selection committee and traveled to their Awards Congress in Springdale, Arkansas. Stephen Komar, Chair of the NACAA Agricultural Issues and Public Relations Committee also represented NACAA at the Awards Congress. Stephen and I worked with the new leadership of this program, the Outstanding Farmers of America Fraternity, to build stronger relationships and build an even better OYF congress for the future. In addition to the OFA fraternity, the U.S. Jaycees are important partners in this program, and John Deere is the National Sponsor. John Deere has been the national sponsor for the OYF program since 1976.

The purpose of the Outstanding Young Farmer program is to bring about a greater interest in the farmer, to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of the farmers’ challenges, to develop an appreciation of their contributions and achievements, and to inform the agribusiness community of growing urban awareness of farmers’ importance and impact on the American economy.

I want to encourage you to nominate one of your outstanding young farmers to this program. Each of you has deserving individuals in your county/parish or region that deserves to be recognized for their contributions and achievements. The deadline for nominations is August 1st of each year, so you still have time to work with that young producers to get their nominations in. I have found that past national winners from your state can provide some great input to new nominees. The nomination form can be found on the OFA fraternity’s website at www.ofafraternity.org. NACAA members that nominate a national winner are eligible for reimbursement of registration fees for the next year’s NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference.

As Past President I have also had the opportunity to represent NACAA on the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) national Board of Directors. This past year I have served as President for JCEP. JCEP is comprised of the six Extension professional associations; NACAA, ANREP, NAE4-HA, NEAFCS, NACDEP, and ESP. JCEP’s Board is composed of the Presidents Elect, Presidents, and Past Presidents of each of these associations. JCEP also has representatives from NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture); the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU); and the Extension Committee on Organization and Planning (ECOP). Paul Wigley will be serving as JCEP President next year.

JCEP sponsors three signature educational events. The two annual events are the JCEP Leadership Conference and the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference. These two conferences provide excellent opportunities for you to learn and grow in your Extension career. We received great feedback on this year’s programs, and I would encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities in 2013. The third signature conference is the Galaxy Conference. JCEP holds a Galaxy Conference every 5 years, and the next meeting (Galaxy IV) is being held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 16-20, 2013. This meeting will also serve as our NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference for 2013. As chair of the fiscal committee for NACAA, we have been working diligently to ensure that NACAA is prepared for the Galaxy IV/NACAA AMPIC meeting.

Finally I want to take this opportunity to thank Michigan State University, Michigan State University Extension and the members of the Michigan Association of Extension Agents for all of their support over the past four years. It would have been nearly impossible to serve in this role and also develop educational programs back home without all of their support. They truly have made this a wonderful, memorable experience for me. I am sure that it will positively impact my Extension work in the years to come.

I also want to thank my wife Gayle, and my children for their incredible support and for the sacrifices that they willingly made in order to make this possible.

It has been great serving you over the past four years, and I would encourage you to look for ways that you can be more involved in the leadership of NACAA. You truly do get back even more than you give. I am confident that with your help, NACAA will continue to be the premiere professional development association for agricultural agents/educators in the USA.

**NACAA North Central
Region Director
Larry Howard, Nebraska**



I am proud to have the opportunity to represent the North Central Region and its membership as their Regional Director. As I conclude my first year, I want to share that it has been a great experience. Several past regional directors have shared with me that they felt this is one of the best positions on the NACAA Board. I would agree. I have been an NACAA member for twenty-seven years and am making plans to attend my 20th NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC). I have served in several leadership roles at the state and regional levels and been involved in the NACAA awards program but this past years' experience has been most rewarding.

This past year I was able to attend ten of the state meetings in person, one by conference call, while Brad Brummond (Vice Director) attended his home state. We have been impressed with the accomplishments in each state and were very appreciative of the great hospitality shown while at the conferences. Budgets continue to be an issue in several states but I was glad to see the positive attitudes of the members to move forward to continue to make Extension remain relevant. The dedication of the membership is making for a strong organization. I have enjoyed the professional improvement sessions and the tours in some of the states.

As Brad and I met with the states we encouraged members to become more involved in NACAA. As committee chair positions become available consider an application. All states need to be represented. Take time to apply for awards, presentations, posters, or submitting an article to the Journal of NACAA as a way to showcase the great work you are doing. This is your NACAA so we challenge you to be involved.

NACAA members can be very proud of the leadership and dedication of the entire National Board and our Executive Director Scott Hawbaker. The work of this group on behalf of the members is extraordinary as we look for ways to improve our association. They are an outstanding group to work with.

In addition to the state meetings, I had the opportunity to attend the Winter and Spring Board meetings, the monthly conference calls, as well as the JCEP Leadership Workshop. I am amazed at how much work gets done in a very efficient manner.

South Dakota will be hosting the 2015 AM/PIC in Sioux Falls. They are getting their committees formed and the planning is well on its way. They have faced some cuts to their Extension staff but they are moving forward in a positive manner. Steven Munk, Annual Meeting Chair, will have them organized very well. I encourage every state in the region to be making plans to assist South Dakota when they call on your state.

I want to thank my fellow Nebraska membership for giving me this opportunity to serve NACAA. It comes around every 24 years so it is a once-in-a-career opportunity. Also thanks to the Nebraska Extension Administration for the support needed to fulfill this assignment. Thanks to the Cuming County Extension staff and volunteers as I had to miss most of last year's county fair due to AM/PIC. Our advance planning paid off. And finally, thanks to my wife, Mary, who has covered at home while I have been away. She has been able to participate in some of the functions and has enjoyed the friends we have made.

I look forward to serving and completing my term as North Central Regional Director this next year.

**NACAA North East
Region Director
Stephen Hadcock, New York**



In wrapping up my first year on the Board, I am reminded of what some previous Northeast Directors have said about this opportunity to serve as Director. That is that you learn and receive so much in gaining friendships and knowledge throughout the region in this position. This has been true for me as well this year. In attending state meetings and talking to members throughout the Northeast, I have learned so much. For example, at the Maine state meeting I learned some information about poultry production that I was able to take back and use. I was also able to strengthen and make new contacts

about assisting Beginning Farmers in the Northeast. At the New Jersey meeting, learned that deer damage in an urban/suburban area can be devastating as well.

The climate for membership and participation by agricultural Extension Educators in our national organization seems brighter in the Northeast. Membership in the Northeast remained fairly stable for the year. New Hampshire Extension has gone through reorganization and the Educators there are working to congregate and meet as an Agricultural Agent Association. Delaware Educators have made a commitment to support the national association as well. A special thank you to Scott Hawbaker and President Paul Wigley for their efforts to foster Delaware to be part of the association once again. The Northeast Host Committee for Galaxy IV has been regularly meeting to make plans for NACAA participation in this event in 2013. Plans are starting to come together for Professional Improvement Tours just prior to the start of the Galaxy Conference on September 16. We hope to see you in Pittsburgh next year from September 15 – 20. Look for more information about Galaxy IV and Pittsburgh at this year's AM/PIC in Charleston.

I have had the opportunity to serve on the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference Planning Committee for the past two years as one of your representatives. Serving on this committee was a great opportunity to work with representatives from sister organizations and Educators from across the country. One of the main themes of this year was the recognition of the 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Act. Several of the general session speakers referenced this achievement. In particular, was the capstone speaker who was Steve Stark from South Dakota. Dressed in period clothes, Mr. Stark talked about and drew a picture of the history of the Morrill Act. With my time done on the planning committee, our Association is now represented by Director Jerry Clemons and Vice Director Pete Nitzsche.

I would like to also express my appreciation to the Officers and Board members of NACAA. The composition of the Board changes each year as Officers and Directors retire and new ones come in to take their place. I have been impressed and pleased with how as a collective group we have come together and have worked thoughtfully for the betterment of our professional organization.

**NACAA Southern
Region Director
Jerry Clemons, Arkansas**



When I assumed the role of Southern Region Junior Director this year, I knew that it would be an outstanding opportunity to give back to our organization. As I have attended state meetings, I always make the point that this is our organization – yours and mine. It seems like the world today is all about “What’s in it for me?” I was taught from an early age that you get out of life what you put into it. Some agents have asked “What has the association ever done for me?” I always ask in turn, “What have you done for the association?”

I know there are many opportunities for each of us to serve within the organization. Whether you have one of the leadership positions at the state or national level or attending the AM/PIC and presenting at one of the many educational sessions, you are helping give back to our association. This association will be only as strong as we make it, so when the opportunity presents itself to you be ready and jump in whole hog.

This past year I have had a chance to meet a large number of outstanding County Extension Agents, not only from the Southern Region but from all over the United States. We all have some of the same concerns that have been going on for the past couple of years. Budget constraints remain a major issue. Although it seems some of the cuts have leveled off, everyone I have talked to still has a concern about funding.

We are in the middle of making the state meetings in the Southern Region and looking forward to the National Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. I have had the opportunity to attend both the JCEP meeting in San Antonio, Texas and PILD meeting in Washington, DC. Being part of the planning committee for PILD and working with our sister organization has been a real honor and very rewarding.

This past year has been very enjoyable to meet and discuss issues that are important to each of you. Remember that your National Board is here to assist you with your questions. Membership concerns have and will always remain a top priority for the board. They are always looking for ways to improve the association that will be a benefit to the membership.

I hope that many of you are planning on attending the AM/PIC this summer. The South Carolina Association

has been working very hard and they have put together an outstanding meeting. I would like to thank the Arkansas Extension Administration, the office staff in Clark County, the county residents and of course, my family for allowing me this opportunity to serve you and our association.

**NACAA Southern
Region Director
Tim Varnedore, Georgia**



One never knows what each day is going to bring but you can bet there will be some type of Change. I am so thankful that one of those days brought me the opportunity to serve as your Southern Region Director; it's been a life changing experience. In the last two years I have traveled many miles down many different roads, met a lot of amazing people, shared some awesome experiences and learned the true value of listening. As I visited with you at your state meetings, I listened to what you had to say, however; I learned that sometimes what you did not say carried a greater message. As they say, actions often speak louder than words. By listening, I discovered just how deep your commitment really is to your clientele, your state organizations and to your NACAA. I have learned that not only are you dedicated NACAA members but you are also masters of positive thinking. Even in these hard economic times I have seen the true spirit of Extension rise to the fore front as you plan for the future while respecting the past. You have worked tirelessly to serve your constituents while facing budget cuts, limited resources and general fear of what may be coming in the days ahead. Not once have I heard anyone say, I just want to quit. For this I applaud you.

When I was elected as your Southern Region Director, I felt it was my duty to help make decisions and implement changes that would positively impact not only NACAA but your state organizations as well. It has been my personal goal for you to feel that you have a voice in the future of these organizations. I hope that you see a little of yourself reflected as changes are implemented while some things are kept the same. I can truly say that your NACAA Officers and Board of Directors work tirelessly to make NACAA a stronger more unified organization. I know I came in not realizing that meetings really lasted till all hours of the night, conference calls were really that important and how dedicated the officers and board of directors are to you and the organization. Very quickly, I came to understand and appreciate what it means to serve in a leadership role with NACAA. It is an awesome opportunity that I encourage you to work toward. You can start by volunteering for a committee assignment at

the state level or running for an office. There are countless ways to get involved. I know you will be rewarded for your service. NACAA offers more professional development opportunities than any other extension professional organization. Posters and oral presentations are just a couple of great ways to showcase the work you have done back at home and to share ideas with co-workers across the country. Also, please do not forget about our scholarship program. It's your money, put it to good use.

I have no doubt that good times are ahead and that NACAA will once again see growth and continue to prosper as we are an organization that respects the past, lives in the present, and looks forward to the future. While the road has not always been straight or smooth I am honored that you have allowed me the opportunity to travel it with you while serving as your Southern Region Director.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow GACAA members for putting their trust in me to represent Georgia and the Southern Region at the National level. My appreciation goes to The University of Georgia Extension administration for allowing me the time away from my regular duties. Also, special thanks to my co-workers in Jeff Davis and surrounding counties as well as our state specialists. Your assistance to the clients of Jeff Davis County afforded me the opportunity to fulfill my duties to the members of NACAA.

In closing, I would like to thank my wife Karen for supporting me as I undertook this opportunity of a lifetime. Karen, along with our daughter Jaimie and son Ryan have kept the home fire burning over the last 2 years while I have been traveling for NACAA. I look forward to see you in Charleston, SC for the 2012 NACAA AM/PIC. Thanks to all of you, It's been a Blast.

**NACAA Western
Region Director
Mary Small, Colorado**



As this year's AMPIC comes to a close, so does my term as Western Region Director. It has been a wonderful two years, meeting the Western membership, learning about research and educational programs, visiting states and making new friends. I encourage anyone to consider this position when the opportunity rotates to your state. It was inspiring to have worked alongside such a fine group of men and women.

Here are some random, closing thoughts to consider:

- Be proud of our national board as it conducts the business of the association. They are looking out for our best interests in terms of managing finances, planning useful and relevant training sessions and peering into our future.
- The Futuring Committee did a tremendous amount of work in just a few short months analyzing our recent member survey. They wrestled with some pretty difficult issues. But through their leadership, cooperation and thinking this group developed a document that will help guide our association several years into the future.
- Just like our association, we have a beautiful, wonderfully diverse country! Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our local concerns, we fail to see, or even think about, the big picture!
- Leadership abounds in our organization. It's there at state meetings, in committees, in local programs, on the board. Agents jump in where needed to get the job done.
- You can always count on your friendly neighborhood agriculture agent! Need advice with an employee problem? Want to bounce around program ideas? Need help calculating through a pesticide application problem? Having a bad day? I know whom I'm going to call...

To quote President Elect Paul Craig from a few years ago: "To the many friends and acquaintances that I've gained during my extension career, I say thank you. I am a better county agent because of you."

**Program Recognition Council
Council Chair
JJ Jones, Oklahoma**



It is the responsibility of the Program Recognition Council to oversee and conduct the numerous award programs offered by NACAA for its members. There are seven committees that make up the Program Recognition Council. Without these committees and the members that have stepped up to participate in the committee leadership, it would be impossible for the NACAA to offer such an award program.

In 2011-2012 these seven committees were chaired by: 4-H and Youth, Chris Penrose, OH; Communications, Sherri Sanders, AR; Professional Excellence, Gary Zoubek, NE; Public Relations, Keith Mickler, GA; Recognition and Awards, Cynthia Gregg, VA; Scholarship, Rick Ensley, GA; and Search for Excellence, Dick Brzozowski, ME. These seven individuals along with the regional vice chairs and state chairs have put forth a lot of effort and

time to make sure that the NACAA membership are recognized for their outstanding educational programming. These committees have made my second year as Program Recognition Council Chair an easy task. Keith Mickler and Gary Zoubek have completed their terms as national chairs. I would like to thank them for all of the hard work that they have done. Cynthia Gregg has chosen to remain the Recognition and Awards committee national chair for one more term.

These committees help the NACAA recognize the outstanding work that our members do for their respective states. Each year the committees go through hundreds of submitted entries to determine regional and national winners. Without these members willing to take the time to perform these tasks the NACAA would not be able to have such a program.

Each year it is a challenge to fill vacancies within the national committees. Members should take a look at becoming a committee member. If any member is interested or curious about being a committee member and the time commitment, I encourage them to speak to the current committee members or attend the committee meetings during the AM/PIC. I think that they will find that the fulfillment of the committee work far outweighs the time commitment.

There are several categories of awards for which members can apply. Recognition is provided to those selected at the state, regional and national levels. Most awards carry a cash award as well as certificate and plaques. Members need to become familiar with these awards and apply. There is outstanding extension programming being conducted all over the U.S. Our membership needs to be encouraged to apply for these awards and be recognized for their effort.

I want to thank the NACAA national board for allowing me this opportunity to play this major role in the committee structure. My first two years have been both educational and worthwhile and I look forward to the next year's work.

**Communications
Sherri Sanders, Arkansas**



The communications committee is pleased to report that Bayer has continued sponsorship of the Communications Awards Program for 2012. Our committee has worked diligently to expedite the judging of all entries in a timely fashion. We attribute this success largely to the fact that all entries are submitted electronically.

We continue to see large numbers of entries in the fourteen communication award categories. The caliber of award entries is outstanding. Our members are producing excellent materials and are to be commended for the quality of their submissions. Drop by the poster display while in Charleston to see what the winning entries look like. The abstracts of the national winners, national finalists and regional finalists for all 14 categories will be published in the proceedings. These can provide further opportunities to gain ideas and to improve our extension programming.

I am appreciative to the regional vice-chairs for the communication committee. The regional vice chairs are: North Central Region Chair Margaret Zoglmann (Indiana), North East Region Chair Lee Stivers (Pennsylvania), Southern Region Chair Tracy Robertson (Mississippi), and Western Region Chair Kurt Jones (Colorado).

Search for Excellence
Richard Brzozowski, Maine



The current Search for Excellence (SFE) committee is comprised of four regional vice chairs and me. The regional chairs include Stanley McKee or Pennsylvania; Jesse Clark of Arkansas; Thomas Dorn or Nebraska and Ronald Patterson of Utah.

To get things underway for the 2012 SFE awards, our team held a meeting via a conference call in January. We discussed procedures for promoting SFE entry submissions and for scoring the entries to be received. A description of the criteria was posted on the awards section of the NACAA website for consistency in judging entries. We also confirmed the division of responsibilities as to the SFE categories each would lead. The responsibilities were as follows for 2012:

Landscape Horticulture – Jesse Clark, jclark@uaex.edu

Livestock Production – Ronald Patterson ronald.patterson@usu.edu

Crop Production – Thomas Dorn tdorn@unlnotes.unl.edu

Young, Beginning or Small Farmer/Rancher – Stanley McKee sam36@psu.edu

Remote Sensing & Precision Agriculture – Stanley McKee sam36@psu.edu

Farm & Ranch Financial Management – Ronald Patterson ronald.patterson@usu.edu

Farm Health & Safety - tdorn@unlnotes.unl.edu

Sustainable Agriculture – Richard Brzozowski richard.brzozowski@maine.edu

We checked in as a team again in March. Each regional chair was responsible for organizing the team of judges for their respective category(s); judging the entries and submitting scores to me by May 1, 2012.

An organizational approach for state contacts developed in 2011 by North Central Regional Vice Chair, Thomas Dorn was revised for 2012. Tom copied a message to the other 3 regional vice chairs and to me that he had sent to his state contacts as a way to make sure everything was in order. This message has become a model for others to use in their own region.

All entries received and screened by the states were judged by early May and national and state winners were notified by mid-May. The number of entries per category was as follows:

Landscape Horticulture	8 completed entries
Livestock Production	14 completed entries
Crop Production	12 completed entries
Young, Beginning or Small Farmer/Rancher	8 completed entries
Remote Sensing & Precision Agriculture	4 completed entries; 1 unsuitable
Farm & Ranch Financial Management	5 completed entries; 2 unsuitable
Farm Health & Safety	4 completed entries;
Sustainable Agriculture	4 completed entries;

It is apparent that several categories are low in the number of entries again this year. The Search for Excellence program is an important vehicle for individual and team recognition and an effective way for Extension colleagues to obtain new programming ideas for possible application in their respective counties and states. We owe it to ourselves and our sponsors to have a robust and meaningful representation of programming for consideration and recognition. The SFE Committee will continue to promote the awards program in coming years with the intent of enhancing participation among NACAA members.

During the judging process, there were a few entries that were not judged for national recognition as they either

didn't fit the category in which they were submitted or didn't meet the criteria for the SFE award.

Suggestions for 2013:

- In order to increase award entries for each of the eight categories, emphasis should be placed on promoting the SFE program and recruiting members to enter projects and programs. Submitting a SFE entry is a fairly easy process and is comparable to many reports members are already writing for their accomplishments and work. Future promotion of the SFE awards program should include a targeted approach of articles, special email messages, setting state targets, etc.
- Enhanced communications with SFE State Chairs will also be essential in the future growth of the SFE awards program. One possible method may be to have additional conference calls or webinars with SFE State chairs on the process involved with reviewing and approving applications. Emphasis could also be placed on how to score entries in the judging process at the state level.

Thanks:

- Each of the Regional Chairs is to be commended for performing effectively this past year. This was not an easy task for them especially during one of the busiest times of their year in Extension work.
- Thanks to Program Recognition Council Chair, JJ Jones of OK for his support and encouragement during the process. JJ always had thoughtful and accurate answers to the questions I posed.
- Thanks to NACAA Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker for his support and encouragement to me with problems and situations that arose with entries and other related situations.

Everyone with whom I have dealt has been supportive in this process.

**4-H & Youth
Chris Penrose, Ohio**



Almost all agricultural agents conduct some 4-H and youth programs. The purpose of the Excellence in 4-H Youth Programming Committee is to recognize those that have developed exceptional programs. This year was no exception. We had eight entries for awards. Another charge of the committee was initiated three years ago when the committee proposed, and the board approved, the establishment of the Excellence in 4-H Program

Workshop. Applications for the workshop continue to grow with 16 entries this year. This is a chance for agents to share unique and innovative 4-H and youth programs to NACAA members that can be adapted for local programs. This year's presentations include: Master Gardener programs to reach at-risk youth; the Science of Maryland Agriculture; Beef Camp; 4-H horse day camp; Americorps vista program; 4-H GPS/GIS Natural Resource projects; high desert youth range camp; how to get excited about science; and 4-H leader livestock project online learning modules.

One task the committee is working on is to increase the number of entries for awards. Many of the applications for presentations would have been eligible for awards if the presenters had applied.

Finally, I want to thank Sherry Beaty, the past Chair for 4-H Youth Recognition, for her efforts in making this committee grow with the addition of the workshop; and to Craig Williams, North East Vice-Chair and Mark Nelson, Western Vice Chair for their assistance during my first year as chair.

**Professional Excellence
Gary Zoubek, Nebraska**



The Professional Excellence committee is responsible for organizing the poster session at the AM/PIC. The poster abstracts are reviewed by the Vice Chairs and Chair, numerous judges are secured so that all posters are peer reviewed at the AM/PIC. NACAA continues to endorse the poster session as an important means of presenting Extension Programs and Applied Research results to its members. Syngenta Crop Protection is again the primary sponsor for 2012 and is sponsoring the awards breakfast.

All abstracts were completed on-line this past year. All lead authors were contacted and informed that their abstracts were accepted and asked to inform co-authors of the same! After fewer emails and phone calls than last year, this was accomplished by early May!

Poster abstracts are peer reviewed at the state level by state chairs and at the regional level by Regional Vice-Chairs. Thanks for a job well done! The current regional Vice Chairs are Ron Meyer, Western Region; Brian Cresswell, Southern Region; Virginia Rosenkranz, North East Region; and Jefferson McCutcheon, North Central Region.

This year, we had an all-time high of 161 abstracts accepted for the meeting in Charleston, SC; 50 entries in the Applied

Research category and 111 entries in Extension Education programs. Summary sheets listing poster authors and titles will be prepared and distributed to NACAA members at the entrance of the poster session so that they can more easily find posters that they're interested in. The times for "Meet the Author" sessions are planned for morning and afternoon breaks. Hopefully this change will increase member participation in the "Meet the Author" sessions.

A goal of the Professional Excellence Committee has been to improve the quality of the abstracts and poster entries. We've continued to see improvement over the past few years. Copies of the judging score sheets and criteria are posted on the website for participants to consider prior to preparing abstracts and posters. Judges' scores will also be shared with participants in an effort to improve future posters.

The Professional Excellence Committee continues to utilize more judges to reduce the amount of time it takes for judging. Each judge will be asked to evaluate 10-15 posters. The top three or four posters from each group will then be evaluated by additional judges to select the top poster recipients in each category! Awards will be presented at the AM/PIC Poster Session Breakfast on Tuesday morning. The top three posters in each category received cash awards and plaques, the regional winners received a certificate and the remaining top 20% received finalist recognition ribbons.

I want to thank the volunteers that will be helping judge poster this year. Without your help, we could not get this task accomplished. I also want to thank the state Professional Excellence Committee Chairs and my fellow committee members for the job they have done, this is not an easy assignment. The Professional Excellence committee has to get the Poster Session set up, organized, judged, and finally recognized in a span of three days. It takes a lot of dedication and hard work to make this happen, and without the Vice Chairs of this committee, it would not happen.



Public Relations
Keith Mickler, Georgia



The Public Relations committee is responsible for conducting the Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Awards (A4) program formally known as PRIDE (Public Relations in Daily Efforts) program. The A4 program is a great way for NACAA members to highlight educational programs that demonstrate the public relations side of extension work, as well as enhance the understanding of agriculture in our communities.

The A4 program had 10 entries this year, a downward turn from last year's entries of 16. As always the entries were of outstanding quality and examples of the public relations work we all do in our roles as extension agents. There is a tremendous amount of work that many are all doing, some of which would make excellent entries in the A4 program. We challenge all of you to make an effort to enter the A4 Awards program in 2013.

Congratulations to Joan S. Petzen from New York, who is the A4 program National winner. Joan presented her winning entry titled "Wyoming County Agri-Palooza" Agriculture during the A4 awards recognition luncheon. Congratulations also go national finalists Robert C. Goodling, Jr. from Pennsylvania, and Mike Donahoe from Florida. Regional finalists were Amy Simpson from Arkansas and Chad R. Reid from Utah.

An enormous thank you goes to all of the Public Relations Committee regional and state chairs; these are the folks who get the work done.

The Public Relations committee is looking forward to next year's challenge of even having more participation. The Public Relations committee challenges each of you to submit an entry in the NACAA awards programs especially A4. This is a great opportunity; all of you make great strides in the public relations arena each day, so why not submit your work, We are certain many of you have efforts worthy of winning.

The Public Relations committee especially wants to thank Dow AgroSciences for sponsoring of the A4. If not for their sponsorship this award and luncheon would not be possible. Please show your appreciation to Dow AgroSciences and our sponsors when the opportunity presents itself.

Scholarship Ricky Ensley, Georgia



The scholarship committee wants to recognize the following members for reaching designated giving levels to the NACAA Scholarship Fund.

\$100 - \$249

Scott Hawbaker, Robert C. Bellm, Elizabeth Wahle, Margaret Zoglmann, Eugene Matzat, Denise Schwab, Ben Allen, David V. Key, Amy Jordan, Allen Baker, R. Scott (Bronc) Barrows, Melvin Brees, Larry Howard, Ron Seymour, Jennifer Rees, Willie Huot, Chet Hill, Carol Schurman, Rick LeVitre, Bruce M. Loyd, Timothy D. Reed, Jimmy "Jim" G. Todd, Edward Ayers, John Dorner, IV, Nathan Anderson, Mike Weber, Mike Loveless, Brian Beer, L. Warren Thigpen, Jr., Charles K. Curry, Gerald Marks, Kevin Heaton, Larry Sagers, Steve M. Van Vleet, and Sandra Frost.

\$250-499

Gary Hall, John H. Beckman, Chris L. Bruynis, PhD., Chris Zdorovtsov, Daniel Kluchinski, Stephen E. Hadcock, Charles C. Mitchell, Jr., Ricky Ensley, Wes Smith, Laura Griffeth, Tim Varnedore, Eddie McGriff, and Rob L. Grumbles.

\$500 - \$999

John Stannard, Kurt Werth, Paul H. Craig, Jeff Carter, and Eric Eberly.

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Johnny Whiddon and John C. Campbell

\$10,000 and over

Eddie R. Holland

The scholarship committee has been working with state scholarship chairs to encourage donations to the scholarship fund. NACAA members and friends have donated \$15,612.50 to the scholarship fund from July 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012. The majority of this money was from the silent auction and special drawing sales during the 2011 NACAA Annual Meeting.

Scholarship committee members continued to work on the accuracy of members' donation records and recording donations into the data base. We have been working with state scholarship donation levels. The new scholarship criteria states:

- Members need to be vested at \$40 in the scholarship fund to be eligible for up to \$1,000 in scholarship awards.
- Members need to be vested at \$100 in the scholarship fund to be eligible for up to \$2,000 in scholarship awards. No more than \$1,000 can be awarded within any year.

This year eight scholarship applications were submitted to the Scholarship Committee that will be reviewed at the annual meeting.

Recognition & Awards Cynthia Gregg, Virginia



I would first like to say thank you to the NACAA Board and Membership for the honor and privilege of serving as the National Chair of the Recognition and Awards Committee for the past 2 years. I would like to say Thank you to the members of the Recognition and Awards Committee: Ted Wiseman, North Central Region Vice-Chair; Ronnie Helmondollar, Northeast Region Vice-Chair; Sid Mullis, Southern Region Vice-Chair; Kurt Nolte, Western Region Vice-Chair and all of the State Chairs. You did a fantastic job this year! I would like to say Thank you and Express much appreciation to all of the State Chairs and Presidents, who help make the Achievement Awards, Distinguished Service Awards, and the Hall of Fame Awards maintain such a strong foundation for these prestigious awards from our Association. Thank you for all you do for your respective states and NACAA.

This year in Charleston, the Committee is responsible in the awarding of the Hall of Fame Awards for the seventh year. The four outstanding Hall of Fame winners will receive their awards on Monday during the General Session. The recipients achieved many things during their careers and beyond in assisting their clientele, along with fellow agents and specialists of the Extension Programs in their respective states and regions of the country. They have extensive achievements professional organizations and humanitarian service. This year's inductees make one proud to be a member of NACAA.

On Tuesday Morning, 64 Achievement Award recipients will receive their respective awards at a Breakfast in their honor. This is the thirty-ninth year that NACAA has presented this award with this year's recipients joining 1,813 fellow Achievement Awards winners. This year's winners were based on two percent of the Membership of their respective states as of February 15. This is new this year. The 2012 Achievement award winners have provided quality programming for their clientele, have respect of co-workers and have accomplished this in less

than 10 years. A special thank you goes to NACAA President Paul Wigley and American Income Life's Bill Viar for assisting with the awards presentation on Tuesday morning.

This year was the seventy-fifth year to present the Distinguished Service Award. Thursday evening at the Annual Banquet the Distinguished Service Award will be presented to 58 NACAA members from across the country. These members were chosen by their respective states to receive one of the highest awards presented by the NACAA and joined 6,975 past recipients in 2012. The members represent two percent of their state membership, providing outstanding educational programming, are respected by their clientele and co-workers, and have worked for more than ten years.

The Committee wishes a special thank you to the sponsors of the Awards given this week. Thank you to John Deere and Company for their sponsorship of the Hall of Fame award for the seventh year. We also want to express our appreciation for the continued support of the Achievement Awards Breakfast By American Income Life Insurance Company for the thirty-ninth year and they have provided sponsorship for forty-four years overall to NACAA programs. Philip Morris USA was the once again the sponsor of the Awards Booklet and the committee wishes to say thank you for their continued support and recognized at the Annual Banquet.

I would like to express the Recognition and Awards Committee's Congratulations to all of the Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award and Hall of Fame Award winners this year.

It has been a busy year for the Recognition and Awards Committee. We have continued to work on electronic submission of all three awards: Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Hall of Fame.

I would be remised if I also did not thank the NACAA Board, President Paul Wigley and the Regional Directors along with Program Recognition Council Chair JJ Jones and Executive Director Scott Hawbaker for your assistance to the Recognition and Awards Committee this year. Alan Galloway's work on getting the plaques and certificate frames completed is very much appreciated by the Recognition and Awards Committee. Thank you also goes to the South Carolina Agents for a wonderful meeting, along with a special thank you to Grady Sampson, Carrie Trebil, and Frank FitzSimmons for all of your assistance with the three awards programs!

To our membership the Recognition and Awards Committee National Chair, Regional Vice-Chairs, and

State Chairs would like to encourage you to continue providing recognition for some of the outstanding extension educators in your respective states. In your state association you have members who you can nominate for the Achievement Award and Distinguished Service Award. There are also some agents both active and retired who would be outstanding nominees for the Hall of Fame.

It has been truly a pleasure to serve as the Recognition and Awards Committee National Chair this year. To all NACAA members keep up the great work you do as you do make a difference in your communities, counties, parishes, areas, states, and regions.

***Extension Development
Council
Council Chair
Daniel Kluchinski, New Jersey***



My "freshman year" as Extension Development Council Chair has been a period of personal learning about and enhanced appreciation of the excellent work our committees accomplish. As you may know, the Extension Development Council (EDC) strives to enhance the professionalism of our members by providing opportunities for strengthening leadership, administrative and educational delivery skills. The focus on teaching various skills and methodologies to conduct extension work effectively makes NACAA unique from other subject specific professional organizations. The Extension Development Council's committees -- Agriculture Issues and Public Relations, Early Career Development, Administrative Skills, and Teaching and Educational Technologies -- help members improve their skills related to art and science of extension practice.

The Council's efforts at the 2012 AM/PIC include hosting four concurrent sessions on Tuesday morning featuring 21 presentations. Additional educational offerings will include two excellent hands-on workshops on Sunday and Wednesday afternoon sponsored by the Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee. We hope you will join us for these informational workshops.

Over the year, educational programming was extended beyond the confines of the AM/PIC through two educational webinars: "Conducting Webinars 101" (recording available at <http://tinyurl.com/NACAA-Conducting-Webinars-101>) and "2012 AM/PIC First Timers Webinar" (recording available at <http://tinyurl.com/NACAA-2012-AMPIC-First-Timers>). The

sessions were well attended and positively evaluated by participants. Our committees welcome your suggestions for future topics and speakers. Please share any ideas with your State Committee Chair and Regional Committee Vice-Chair.

Our relationship with the National Outstanding Young Farmers program, co-sponsored with Jaycees, has been strengthened and continues to develop with participation of the NACAA Agricultural Issues and Public Relations Committee Chair and a national officer attending this group's annual meeting.

Finally, I offer my sincere thanks to our committee chairs, regional vice-chairs and state chairs as well as Vice President Dorough for their individual and collective leadership and guidance during the past year. I encourage NACAA members to increase their participation in the Extension Development Council's activities and guidance of our efforts to serve them. It is through your engagement that NACAA can better suit your needs.

Ag Issues and Public Relations
Stephen Komar, New Jersey



The AI&PRC had a productive year thanks to the efforts of the committee members including Scott Gabbard, Purdue, Mark Heitstuman and Dr. Bill Burdine, Mississippi State. Although the committee as a whole was relatively new to NACAA leadership positions, we were fortunate to have excellent leadership from Dan Kluchinski, Rutgers University.

The 2011 NACAA-AMPIC ended with an excellent professional development program focusing on a wide variety of issues facing the agricultural industry from disaster preparedness to developing value-added products to increase on-farm revenue. The 2012 NACAA-AM/PIC sessions will spotlight how our members are sharing their successes with elected officials, support agencies and the general public. In ever challenging economic times, the importance of documenting the impacts that Extension programs are having on our communities will continue to be an important role of the AI&PRC. Look for a series of webinars featuring some of these outstanding programs in the months following AM/PIC.

The OYF program continues to be one of the core programmatic responsibilities of the AI&PRC. This past year I had the privilege of joining Mr. Stan Moore, past-

president, Michigan, at the OYF congress in Springdale Arkansas. We were both proud to represent NACAA at this event and were extremely impressed with the outstanding candidates from all across the United States. This year was extra special as a farmer from my home county was named as one of the national winners. The OYF is coordinated by the United States Chamber of Commerce, The Outstanding Young Farmers of America Fraternity and the NACAA with corporate sponsorship provided by John Deere. The leadership of this committee will continue to investigate ways that our organization can The AI&PRC would like to challenge Extension professionals from every state to submit at least one candidate from their state for this honor.

In the future, the AI&PRC will continue to support the OYF program and will continue to seek new and innovative ways to share the outstanding Extension programs from across the United States with our clientele. It has truly been an honor to serve as National Committee Chair for this outstanding organization. Scott Gabbard, Purdue, will assume this position following the 2012 AM/PIC. I look forward to continuing my service under his leadership.

Early Career Development
Dr. Laura Griffeth, Georgia



The Early Career Development Committee has been busy during this past year thanks to the efforts of our committee members – Amber Yutzy, Pennsylvania, Nathan Winter, Minnesota, and Taun Beddes, Utah. We were also fortunate to have excellent leadership from Dan Kluchinski as Extension Development Council Chair.

The focus of the Early Career Development Committee is to develop professional improvement education programs that assist members who are early in their career to maximize and successfully complete their Extension education experiences. The Committee also helps train members in management positions, or those who are in other positions that might play a role in mentoring new professionals, to assist those who are new to Extension.

One of the educational programs developed by the Early Career Development Committee is the educational sessions at the 2012 AM/PIC in Charleston, SC. A total of ten abstracts were submitted, with three selected to present seminars on Tuesday morning, July 17, beginning at 8:30 am. These topics are applicable to all of us, not just those in the early stages of their career.

Session 1 8:30 am – 9:30 am
PLANNING AND FORMATTING A SUCCESSFUL PROMOTION AND TENURE DOSSIER
 Mr. Taun Beddes, Utah

Session 2 9:30 am – 10:30 am
FIVE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR GREAT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
 Mr. Matt Palmer, Utah

Session 3 10:30 am – 11:30 am
PAINLESSLY PUBLISHING IN THE JOURNAL OF NACAA
 Dr. Stephen C. Brown, Alaska

The other main program developed by the Early Career Development Committee was the First Timer’s Webinar held on Friday, April 13, 2012 which included participation from all four Early Career Development Committee members, Dan Kluchinski, Extension Development Council Chair, Scott Hawbaker, Executive Director, and Carrie Trebil, South Carolina Association of County Agricultural Agents. The purpose of this webinar was to better prepare first time participants for their initial AM/PIC and the registration process. 24 participated during the live session, while 40 have watched the archived session in April and May.

State Early Career Development Chairs and other parties interested in early career development issues are encouraged to attend the Early Career Development Committee meeting at this year’s AM/PIC. It will be Monday, July 16 at 1:30 pm. Your ideas will be useful for the development of goals for the 2012 – 2013 year and the 2013 AM/PIC. If you cannot attend, please share your thoughts and ideas with any of the committee members throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you in Charleston!

Teaching and Educational Technologies
Jenny Carleo, New Jersey



Bring your iPads!

iPads for agricultural educators is just one of the great ideas we will be presenting on at the upcoming Annual Meeting. The TET committee has received many excellent presentation proposals from a large number of people. We have selected those that pertain the most to technology. This is a line-up of speakers and in-depth sessions that you won’t want to miss!

We will begin on Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to about 5 pm with a session on the iPad. Speaker David A. Yates invites you all to “Join us as we share what the iPad offers and how University of Tennessee Extension county and state professionals are utilizing this new, emerging technology to benefit us and our programs.”

Tuesday morning we will start at 8:30 with nine different presentations on blogs, evaluating program impact electronically, podcasts, E-college and other technology topics. Each presentation will be 20 minutes including the Q & A period.

At the request of our members on Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 - 5 PM the committee has invited eXtension to hold a hands-on session on eXtension as well as Moodle. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to learn more about using eXtension and some of their amazing services like Moodle.

It is likely that due to our internet and hands-on needs for our seminars, they will be held away from the convention center. So if you plan on coming to one of our sessions plan to stay for the whole time. Don’t forget to bring your laptops and/or iPads, we are looking to serving your technology education needs at AM/PIC 2012 in Charleston, SC!

Administrative Skills
Jim Cowden, North Carolina



In 2012, the Administrative Skills Committee continued to improve and enhance the administrative skills of all NACAA members regardless of their level of administrative responsibility. Some key program focus areas include: advocacy and working with Federal and State legislators or local government officials; general office administration such as budgets, personnel management, empowering volunteers and grant writing.

Several high quality seminars will be presented at the AM/PIC in Charleston. These will include: LEADERSHIP POSITIONING IN COUNTIES: BUILDING A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE, building relationships with community leaders of all kinds by Paul Westfall of North Carolina; USING A TEAM-BASED APPROACH TO FARM MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE PROFITABILITY, a team of professionals can address issues on the farm that might not be solved by a single agricultural professional by Aerica Bjurstrom of Wisconsin; and TRANSFORMING YOUR EVERYDAY EXTENSION WORK INTO PACKAGED

CURRICULUM TO ADVANCE OUR PROFESSION AND YOUR CAREER, the value of creating and sharing curriculum with other Extension Professionals by Eric Barrett and Bev Kelbaugh of Ohio.

An Administrative Skills Committee Meeting will be held Monday afternoon, and all members are invited to attend. Members should invite their State Administrators in attendance. We will discuss the Plan of Work for 2012-2013, and develop some objectives to work on during the year.

The Administrative Skills Committee consists of Jim Cowden, National Committee Chair and Southern Region Committee Vice-Chair; Ken Balliet, Northeast Region Committee Vice Chair; Donna Cuin, Western Region Committee Vice Chair; and Chris Bruynis, North Central Region Committee Vice-Chair. Chris volunteered to complete the unexpired term of Julia Woodruff, who resigned her Extension position by the end of 2011.

**Professional Improvement
Council
Council Chair
Mary Sobba, Missouri**



The Professional Improvement Council is one of the three Councils that make up the committee structure of NACAA. Members wanted more opportunities to present and receive specific subject matter information, therefore several years ago this Council was created and designed to better fulfill our mission: "...to further the professional improvement of our members..." as written in the NACAA mission statement.

The Professional Improvement Council consists of six committees: Ag Economics & Community Development, Agronomy & Pest Management, Animal Science, Horticulture & Turfgrass, Natural Resources/Aquaculture and Sustainable Agriculture.

There will be excellent variety of presentations in Charleston by NACAA members. Sixty-five presentations are being planned, so there will be something of interest for everyone.

Animal Science and Horticulture committees have planned educational and fun preconference tours. Sustainable Agriculture has chosen four new fellows and will have a special workshop on Tuesday for that program. Also the Sustainable Ag committee has planned hospitality for

members to learn more are the SARE Fellowship program. This will be a opportunity to talk with past and current fellows.

New this year a special workshop on Sunday afternoon called "The Do's and Don'ts of on Farm Research and Trials". The Agronomy and Pest Management committee has worked with the board to offer this excellent educational opportunity. Also, the Ag Economics/Community Development committee has organized a special seminar for Wednesday afternoon titled "Managing Agricultural Risk Under the 2012 Farm Bill". These special seminars are open to all NACAA members – let's fill the rooms!

The NACAA committee structure is an excellent way that members can share their time and talents for the benefit of our organization. If you have never been involved with a committee, I encourage you to consider it. There are many opportunities and you will learn much about our organization.

Finally, a great big thank you to the committee chairs and vice chairs and state chairs. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated and it truly takes each of you to make our organization successful. I am looking forward to seeing the results of our committee work in Charleston.

**Agronomy and Pest
Management
Johnny Whiddon, Georgia**



It seems it's only been a few weeks since our last AM/PIC, but I guess that shows I am getting older. We have been busy trying to get everything together for Charleston and this year was a little difficult due to the number of presentations we received. Our committee received more than we had room for so we had to evaluate and select the top presentations.

I have never had to notify anyone in the past that they were rejected. I called each of them and gave them advice on trying next year and to let them know our space limitation was the main reason for rejection. Everyone was very professional and took it well. I encourage everyone to go the extra length on abstracts for next year, to make them the best they can, because I hope the trend of increasing applications continues. For 2013, our committee is planning on promoting presentations on Precision Ag and Pesticide Resistance. Either category will improve your chance of being accepted. We will decide on 2014 topics at this year's AM/PIC.

Our President, Paul Wigley, and Vice President, Henry Dorough allowed me to assist them in putting together a special seminar for Sunday, July 15th. This seminar will consist of 2 main speakers, Chad Lee and Ed Lentz. They will present information on “The Do’s and Don’ts of on Farm Research and Trials”. They will be followed by 3 presenters of on farm research that will be evaluated by Lee and Lentz as well as input from the audience. I encourage you to join us for this special event and invite someone to come with you. Experienced agents will pick up ideas that will fine tune their research and young agents will receive a good foundation of knowledge to get them on the right track.

This is my last year as National Chair. It has been a very rewarding time and I have made many new friends. The knowledge and experiences that I have received from everyone has made me a better man and a better agent. I encourage everyone to step up when you get the chance to be a committee member or run for a Board position. NACAA is only as strong as its membership. The more you put in, the more you get back. Joni Harper will step up and do a great job and I look forward to working with her as Vice Chair for Southern Region next year.

**Ag Economics &
Community Development
Willie Huot, North Dakota**



Committee Members:
North Central Region Vice Chair and National Chair – Willie Huot, ND
Western Region Vice Chair - Del Jimenez – NM
North East Region Vice Chair – Sandra Buxton, NY
Southern Region Vice Chair – Alice J. Rhea - TN

When the Agricultural Economics and Community Development committee met last July in Overland Park, KS, the members identified several potential topics to consider in designing an educational program to be incorporated into the 2012 AM/PIC. Ranked highest among the suggestions was a session focusing on managing agricultural risks with the development of the 2012 farm bill.

From that recommendation our committee has organized a three hour “Super Seminar” titled “Managing Agricultural Risks Under the 2012 Farm Bill” This session is scheduled from 1:00 – 4:00 pm on Wednesday, July 18. Specific topics and presenters for this seminar include:

Dr. Joe Outlaw, Professor and Extension Economist, Texas A & M

Topic –2012 farm bill overview and extension’s role educating producers about the farm bill
Dr. Laurence Crane, VP, Education and Communication, National Crop Insurance Services

Topic – Understanding the role of crop insurance in managing agricultural risks
Ruth Hambleton, Founder, Annie’s Project Education for Farm Women, Woodlawn, IL

Topic – “Managing for Today and Tomorrow” educational program for farm/ranch women

This seminar is designed to provide information and resources that will strengthen the ability of extension agents to provide risk management educational programs. All extension agents involved in risk management education are urged to attend.

This seminar is made possible by the very generous sponsorship of the National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS), Overland Park, KS.

Our committee hopes to be able to continue providing educational opportunities targeting risk management education. This will hopefully include future “Super Seminars” at the AM/PIC as well as other pertinent educational programs throughout the year.

This year a total of 12 abstracts for presentation proposals were received. Topics varied considerably. Due to limited space for professional development sessions at the conference facilities, our committee had to narrow our selection to six presentations. This was difficult as most of the proposals were of very high quality. Sessions selected include marketing, economic development, tourism, and improving record keeping skills. We invite you to attend any or all of these sessions.

A very special thanks to the National Vice Chairs and to the NCIS for all the work and support that has made it possible to include the “Super Seminar” as part of the AM/PIC in Charleston.

Committee Members:

**Animal Science
Ron Graber, Kansas**



National Chair – Ron Graber, KS
Northeast Region Vice-Chair - Richard Smith, PA
Western Region Vice-Chair – Cory Parsons, OR
North Central Region Vice-Chair – Eldon Cole, MO
Southern Region Vice-Chair – Brian Beer, SC

Each year the Animal Science Committee is responsible for planning and conducting the two-day Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Seminar and Tour. This is a tremendous professional improvement opportunity for our members and a great way to network with colleagues from across the country having similar interests. This year South Carolina agents Brian Beer (Lancaster), Jay Crouch (Newberry) and Lee Van Blake (Florence) organized the tour and will serve as our tour hosts.

This year the tour will begin in Charleston with some of the highlights including: Edisto Research and Education Center - alternative grazing species including forage peanuts, feral hog management; Yon Family Farm – 2009 NCBA National Environmental Stewardship winner; Bush River Dairy; Stezler Farm – diversified cattle and poultry farm; Clemson University - forage finishing research and fescue effects on reproduction; Joe Davis Farm – marketing calf crop through retained ownership; Black Crest Farm – Angus and balancer seedstock producer.

We have great interest in the tour this year with 33 participants from 13 states planning to participate. Each year the committee seeks sponsorship for the tour with participants funding the remainder. This year we want to express appreciation to our sponsors: Monsanto, Dow AgroScience, Merck Animal Health, Certified Angus Beef, local meal sponsors and each of the tour stops.

Cory Parsons, Animal Science West Region Vice-chair, took the lead on the professional improvement seminars. Six of our co-workers will be sharing the results of successful research and extension programs during the Tuesday afternoon seminars. Topics will focus on beef reproduction, nutrition and marketing, a forage calculator, animal welfare and care and dairy genetic selection tools.

The Animal Science committee has made arrangements with the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) to offer certification exams during the AM/PIC on Wednesday afternoon. Contact any member of the animal science committee for more information. In addition, continuing education unit's (CEU's) will be available for those who participate in the Tuesday seminars.

The committee has worked hard to offer other professional improvement opportunities throughout the year. One method has been to develop electronic training via webinars in collaboration with other professional organizations, i.e. the DAIREXNET webinars.

Another goal of the animal science committee was to update the promotional poster utilized at AM/PIC. Former

Animal Science Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, Randy Mills from Oregon, volunteered to complete this task. As a result of his hard work, the committee will have a new poster promoting participation and highlighting past committee activities. The committee offers a big thanks to Randy!

Please join us Monday afternoon for a full committee meeting. We will introduce the new committee leadership and begin planning next year's committee activities.

Thank you to each of the vice-chairs! Each of you contributed great suggestions and ideas and willingly provided leadership, time and lots of effort over this past year. Also a special thank you goes to outgoing Northeast Region Vice-chair, Richard Smith (PA) and Western Region Vice-Chair, Cory Parsons (OR), for their contributions.

**Natural Resources
Aquaculture/SeaGrant
Steven Patrick, Georgia**



Committee members include :
 Dan Downing – North Central Region - Vice Chair – University of Missouri
 Matt Palmer – Western Region - Vice Chair – Utah State University
 Steven Patrick – Southern Region - Vice Chair – University of Georgia
 Laurel R Gailor – Northeast Region - Vice Chair – Cornell University

Committee members communicated throughout the year with several teleconferences and numerous emails. During our calls we discussed the vast diversity of our committee in terms of the many fields our committee covers. Our hope is to develop concurrent sessions at upcoming AM/PIC conferences to focus that diversity for county agents hoping to learn more about Natural Resources topics such as: Wildlife Management & Damage Control, Aquaculture, Forestry, Water Quality, Watershed Partnerships, Pond Management, Environmental Education, etc. In Charleston we look forward to hosting the following presentations: INTERSEEDING FORAGE KOCHIA IN ESTABLISHED RANGELAND GRASS STANDS by Jeffrey E Banks, NATURAL CHANNEL DESIGN STREAMBANK RESTORATION by Steven Patrick, POTENTIAL RISK OF WESTERN JUNIPER-INDUCED ABORTION IN BEEF CATTLE by Cory Parsons, CROSS-DISCIPLINARY FIELD WORKSHOP ON THE PERDIDO RIVER by Carrie Stevenson, and URBAN STREAM PROCESSES EDUCATION by Laura M Miller.

We would also like to congratulate Dan Downing as he rises to National Chair for the AM/PIC in 2013.

Horticulture & Turfgrass
Nick Polanin, New Jersey



2011-12 Committee Members:
 Bill Sciarappa, Northeast Region Vice-Chair, New Jersey
 Sarah Denkler, North Central Region Vice-Chair, Missouri
 Stacey Bealmeier, Western Region Vice-Chair, Arizona
 Brian Jervis, Southern Region Vice-Chair, Oklahoma

The Horticulture and Turfgrass Committee provides all members with excellent professional improvement opportunities, but especially to those with expertise or responsibilities in all areas of horticulture, from landscaping and variety trials to production techniques and Master Gardeners, and so much more. Whether your responsibilities in horticulture are full or part time, we believe you'll find valuable education and networking opportunities at this and every AM/PIC.

Our goal is to attract existing and new members of NACAA to attend, participate, network, and share expertise and experiences at the AM/PIC. One way we reach this goal is through our annual Pre-Conference tour, which features in-depth and "behind-the-scenes" experiences at many local venues not experienced during the AM/PIC's tour day. Once again this year we are offering a two-day tour for 25 winning applications from all across the nation. Thanks to Cory Tanner, our 'man on the ground,' we have a great variety of horticultural venues to visit throughout the Columbia and Charleston areas.

Tour highlights for Friday in Columbia include The Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Garden www.riverbanks.org and the Fort Jackson Golf Course, one of our most unique golf course visits as it is located on an active military installation. Saturday will feature a visit to the Magnolia Plantation, www.magnoliaplantation.com, one of the oldest and most historic gardens in the US, along with a tour of a fertilizer operation just north of Charleston where Scotts Osmocote® is developed.

The Committee, with Board approval, has also moved the pre-conference tour application deadline to April 15, giving any members who meet the March 15 general application deadline to consider applying for the tour if their presentations were accepted. If you missed joining the tour this year, make sure to remember these dates for any future tours.

There was an overwhelming response from the membership to present in diverse areas of horticulture, and attending

members will be pleased to choose from 4 separate sessions – yes, there are 24 presentations highlighting horticulture research and outreach efforts from all across the nation at the Charleston conference. We have grouped them into commercial horticulture, consumer horticulture, and Master Gardener programs. Our newest category is "Healthy Horticulture" which features community gardening efforts and promoting healthy fresh appetites in horticulture from across the nation.

In addition, and again with Board approval, our Committee leadership is now comprised of five members, a National Chair and four Regional Vice Chairs, rather than the National Chair also serving as a Vice Chair in their region. This was done to better accommodate the responsibilities of these positions, and to assure that the Chair would have ample opportunity to complete pre-conference and Committee responsibilities at the AM/PIC.

On a personal note, I want to shout a loud "Thank You!" to a great committee – Sarah, Brian, Stacey, and Bill. I will be completing my term as National Chair and Brian will conclude his term as Southern Region Vice Chair at the conclusion of this AM/PIC. Congratulations to Stacey who will be stepping up as the new National Chair, and "Welcome" to Annette Heisdorffer from Kentucky as the new Southern Region Vice Chair and Ron Patterson from Utah as the new Western Region Vice Chair.

Sustainable Agriculture
Adam Hady, Wisconsin



The Sustainable Agriculture Committee was again generously supported by the USDA/ NACAA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program to fund the NACAA Fellows Seminars. Four SARE Fellows were selected in 2012, one from each of the four NACAA regions. They are:
 Nathan Winter (MN) - North Central
 John Porter (WV) – Northeast
 Lara Worden (NC) – Southern
 Maud Powell (OR) – West

The 2012 SARE Fellows have been notified and will receive recognition at the NACAA AM/PIC in Charleston, South Carolina. Each group of Fellows participates in four sustainable agriculture seminars over a two year period. The four seminar tours will be rotated in the four regions. Travel costs to all four seminar tours are covered by USDA SARE. In addition to the educational opportunity, successful participants of the Fellows Program

receive a USDA SARE library courtesy of the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) in Washington, DC, and a \$1,500 stipend to be used for program support, materials or hardware after completing the entire two year program. Before the completion of the fellowship, each participant will be expected to conduct an educational or research program in their home state discussing or exploring some element of sustainable agriculture.

The third round of SARE Fellows that were selected 2009 will be giving a presentation of their experiences at the SARE Fellows Brown Bag lunch presentation on Tuesday, of the NACAA AM/PIC in South Carolina . The new round of SARE Fellows will also be recognized at this event. This event is sponsored by USDA SARE. The SARE Fellows also be hosting a hospitality room in South Carolina.

The SARE Fellows program is not our only task. Our committee has spent much time in reviewing abstracts that will be presented at the sustainable agriculture professional improvement seminars on Tuesday afternoon. The topics this year a more varied this year and should capture something for everyone interested in sustainable agriculture and I think you will enjoy them. This is our fourth year in providing these professional improvement seminars under the topic of "Sustainable Agriculture."

It has been a pleasure serving as the National Chair for the Sustainable Agriculture committee this past year. The regional vice-chairs on the committee have been instrumental in getting things done. I want to thank them. Without the work and insight they have provided this committee would not have functioned in the smooth manner it has.

The Sustainable Agriculture Committee looks forward to future experiences and successful outcomes from the Sustainable Agriculture programs through this valuable partnership with NACAA and USDA/SARE. Everyone involved in this NACAA program would like to give a special thank you to USDA SARE and in particular Kim Kroll, Associate Director of the USDA SARE Program, and the folks in Wyoming in particular, Joleen Pantier, for the tremendous support we have had and look forward to continuing for many years to come.

Life Member Duane Duncan, Pennsylvania



It is the hope of the NACAA Life Member Committee that each state will name a Life Member Committee Chair that will update the NACAA Life Member data base and provide names of Life Members who passed away since our last NACAA Meeting for the Memorial Service that will be held at the 2012 Life Member Business Meeting on Monday at Charleston. It seems to be getting more and more difficult to get responses from state life member chairs. We urge state presidents to select individuals who are interested in Life Member activities. Just as membership is declining among active educators, the same holds true for the number of Life Members attending the AM/PIC.

Our program would not be successful without all the help of our four dedicated Vice Chairs. Tom Benton - Borger, Texas, Southern Region; Don Fretts - Swoope, VA, Northeast Region; Doug Warnock, Prescott, WA, Western Region; and Jim Lindquist - Manhattan, KS, North Central Region.

Also we would like to thank Howard Hiller and Morris Warner from South Carolina for all the hard work they have put into providing an excellent Life Member Program for us in Charleston.

Lee Miller, Life Member Committee Chair elect and I hope that you have made plans to attend our 2012 NACAA Annual Meeting that will be held July 15-19, 2012 at Charleston.

Hopefully our Historical Marker will be erected the afternoon of June 7, 2012, in the town of Schellsburg, Pennsylvania - the site of the location of where Mr. A. B. Ross officially assumed the duties of County agent on March 1, 1910 for Bedford County and adjoining counties. A. B. Ross was appointed as a County Agricultural Agent by the Office of Farm Management Bureau of Plant Industry - United States Department of Agriculture.

A.B. Ross was the first of many County Agricultural Agents that assisted America's Farmers and Rural Communities to be successful. Today County Agricultural Agents work in almost every county in the United States.

In closing I want to thank the NACAA Board for the support of the Life Member Program. We appreciate all you do for us and as retired agents we are always ready to assist in any way that we can.

**Journal of Extension
Keith Mickler, Georgia**



Never miss an opportunity to thank the NACAA officers and board for allowing my continued service to represent NACAA on the Journal of Extension Board (JOE).

I am currently serving my third years as treasurer on the Journal of Extension Board. Just like Cooperative Extension one of the most important elements for all of us is marketing of who we are. We want to make sure you are aware that JOE is not average but is a scholarly online journal representing the best of Cooperative Extension across the nation.

With that said, publishing in JOE is not a tranquil task nor should it be. All JOE submissions are double blind peer reviewed with high editorial standards and scholarly rigor expected from all papers submitted and from those who review them. Should your paper be published in JOE consider that an immense achievement towards tenure and/or promotion.

As of April 16, 2012 83 submissions were received for 2012 and reviewed with 12% being rejected as unsuitable for JOE, 49% returned to author for revision and 38% accepted for publication. Currently there are 113 accepted submissions waiting to be published. JOE is published six times per year.

Another function of JOE is the National Job Bank <http://jobs.joe.org/> . The National Job Bank provides access to a broad range of faculty positions across teaching, research, extension and outreach along with other professional positions involving education, research and/or outreach missions.

Check it the JOE website at <http://joe.org> .

The National Job Bank website allows the job seeker to post resumes and cover letters for potential employers to search through and find key individuals for positions they wish to fill.

Don't forget to visit JOE <http://www.joe.org> and National Job Bank <http://jobs.joe.org> websites, you just might stumble upon a new educational tool or find that dream job you have been longing for.

**Journal of NACAA
Stephen Brown, Alaska**



The past year has been a very exciting time for the Journal of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Because of the "How to Get Published in the Journal of NACAA" workshops at last year's AM/PIC in Kansas City, the journal received a record number of submissions for its December 1st, 2011 and June 1st, 2012 publications. Perhaps more exciting is the number of County Agents who have submitted and had articles published in our journal. Few things can do more for your resume than being published in a peer reviewed journal. To learn more, attend the "How to Get Published in the Journal of NACAA" workshop this summer at the AM/PIC in Charleston.

Equally exciting is the record number of NACAA members who have volunteered to serve as Journal of NACAA National Peer Reviewers. These individuals provide an invaluable service to submitting authors. Being a Journal of NACAA National Peer Reviewer counts as national service and that can be important for individuals hoping to be promoted at their university. To qualify to be a National Peer Reviewer, you have to have at least one published peer reviewed article or bulletin. Watch for the call for 2012/2013 National Peer Reviewers following the AM/PIC.

The purpose of the journal is to give NACAA members the opportunity to publish in a peer reviewed journal and thereby advance their credentials. Because the Journal of the NACAA does not focus exclusively on research, it is an opportunity for county based Agents to publish articles on innovative activities, case studies or emerging opportunities. Finally, the journal is an opportunity for first time authors to gain experience and confidence in publishing. As the editor, I am committed to helping any first time author successfully navigate the process.

**Executive Director
Scott Hawbaker, Illinois**



It has once again been a pleasure serving as the NACAA Executive Director this past year. An outstanding program has been developed for this years AM/PIC and I have thoroughly enjoyed

working with YOUR Board of Directors and National Committee leadership.

Throughout the year I have continued to develop relationships with National Donors and Sponsors and share with them the excitement and dedication that each of you holds for your profession. Although our economy is not in the greatest shape, financial support from National Donors/Sponsors continues from many agribusiness organizations that find value in NACAA. This within itself is encouraging.

One of the highlights of each years activities is the opportunity I have to personally meet many of you that I speak on the phone and email with on a daily basis, while attending the AM/PIC. This organization has allowed me the opportunity to make many professional acquaintances and hundreds of friends across the country.

If at any time you have questions or concerns about your NACAA membership, updating your personal data within our member database, award application processes, navigating the NACAA website, or ways to become more involved, please don't hesitate to contact the NACAA office and discuss these needs with me. I'm more than willing to assist you.



NACAA

Commemorative Knives Available

The NACAA Educational Foundation and the Scholarship Committee have just under 70 limited edition NACAA Case Knives available for purchase.

The knife, a three bladed medium stockman, has a green Jade Bone handle. The three blades, a clip, spey and sheepfoot have the NACAA logo in color etched onto the largest blade. The medium stockman measures 3⁵/₈ inches closed and weighs 2.5 oz. The knife is in a commemorative tin with the NACAA logo printed on the lid.

These fine knives can be purchased by contacting Scott Hawbaker at the NACAA office and he can send one to you. The price including shipping is \$50 per knife.

The money raised from the selling of these knives will go to the foundation to fund travel scholarships.

These knives will make great Birthday and Holiday presents as well as a good retirement gift for agents. Don't miss this opportunity to own a collectible Case knife. If you have any questions about these knives Scott Hawbaker at the NACAA headquarters at (217) 794-3700.



Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

October, 2012

Post AM/PIC Edition

Deadline for Articles: September 15, 2012

Mail Date: October 5, 2012

December, 2012

Awards/Committee Directory

Deadline for articles: December 1, 2012

Mail Date: December 28, 2012

The County Agent

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

The County Agent - NACAA, 6584 W. Duroc Rd.,

Maroa, IL 61756 - Attn: Scott Hawbaker

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES

2012

Charleston, South Carolina.....July 15-19

2014

Mobile, Alabama.....July 20-24

2013

Pittsburgh, PA (Galaxy IV).....Sept. 16-20

2015

Sioux Falls, South Dakota.....July 12-16