



# National Association of County Agricultural Agents

## **NACAA**

### **Southern Region Newsletter**

MAY 2007

#### **Southern Region Directors:**

**Director, Henry D. Dorough,**

**Director, James Devillier,**

**Vice Director, Dirk Webb,**

**Vice Director, Alan B. Galloway,**

**Ph. 256-362-6187, Email: [dorouhd@auburn.edu](mailto:dorouhd@auburn.edu)**

**Ph. 225-683-3101, Email: [jdevillier@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:jdevillier@agctr.lsu.edu)**

**Ph. 580-832-3356, Email: [wdirk@okstate.edu](mailto:wdirk@okstate.edu)**

**Ph. 931-526-4561, Email: [abgalloway@utk.edu](mailto:abgalloway@utk.edu)**

## **NACAA AM/PIC –Grand Rapids, Michigan July 15-19**

If you have read through the April issue of the “The County Agent” then you are aware of the well laid plans for the NACAA Annual Meeting / Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) in Grand Rapids. Hopefully, you have already sent in your registration or registered on line. If not the early registration deadline is **MAY 15, 2007**.

The Michigan Association has listed the top ten reasons you should attend on the NACAA website. They are: 1. Great Lakes, 2. Great Agricultural Diversity, 3. Great agriculture, 4. Great Professional Improvement, 5. Great vacation possibilities, 6. Grand Rapids is great, 7. Great value, 8. MSU-the great-greaddaddy of land-grant institutions, 9. Great access, 10. Great hosts.

When you read about the speakers, tours, professional improvement opportunities and the many activities for members, spouses, children and life members, this year’s AM/PIC is going to be one of the best. The Michigan folks are really sincere in wanting 35% of all members to attend this year’s AM/PIC.

Being familiar with the Grand Rapids area ( due to visiting relatives over the years) I know a little of the diversity of the area. The Michigan Association members are excited about hosting the meeting and the opportunity to showcase their state. The diversity of agriculture, industry, the many sites to see and just the beauty of the area really combine to make a excellent location for an NACAA AM/PIC.

We hope to see you there!

## **Important Activities to Remember at the AM/PIC**

State Officers workshop - Sunday, July 15 , 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Opening Session - Sunday, July 15, 7:00pm to 8:30pm

State Presidents remind your voting delegates of the Voting Delegates Breakfast, Monday, July 16, 6:45am to 7:45am

Committee Workshops for all members - Monday, July 16, 1:30pm to 2:30pm – Check the program for where the desired committee meets.

Southern Region Meeting - Monday, July 15, 3:00pm to 5:15pm

Delegate Session - Tuesday, July 17, 8:30am to 11:30 am

Scholarship Auction – Tuesday, July 17, 7:30pm

These are just a few of the many activities at the AM/PIC. Don’t miss the educational luncheon seminars, poster session and other professional improvement opportunities!

## NACAA Officer Nominees

Following is the list of NACAA officer nominees which we are aware of currently. Pending the report of the nominating committee and the addition of other nominees, the voting delegates will be selecting our officers during the delegate session. Southern region nominees are highlighted with bold font.

**President: N. Fred Miller (NC)**

President Elect: Rick Gibson(AZ)

**Vice President: Phil Pratt (OK)**

Past President: Chuck Otte (KS)

**Treasurer: Paul Wigley (GA)**

**Secretary: Leon J. Church (TX)**

## Voting Delegate Issues

This year's voting delegate session may not be as exciting as last years with nominations coming from the floor (though that can always happen). Following are two issues which the delegates will be discussing. State presidents and voting delegates will receive more information on these issues and any others which will come before the delegate session prior to the AM/PIC.

1. Revising / clarification of the bylaws concerning election of an officer or director. The current bylaws state in Article VI, Section 1, "A NACAA member to be eligible for election as Officer or Director must have attended at least three previous meetings of NACAA". Since the policy committee has had to clarify the intent of "meeting" to mean an AM/PIC. The delegates will decide upon changing the bylaws to replace "meetings" with "Annual Meeting / Professional Improvement Conference" to prevent any future confusion.
2. Another issue is the possible creation of a new committee. You may recall at the request of the Aquaculture/Sea Grant Committee it was folded into (or combined with) the Natural Resources Committee. It has been proposed to create a "Sustainable Agriculture" committee.

## NACAA Scholarship Program – What it is, How it works

There seems to often be confusion about the NACAA Scholarship program. Following is an attempt to as briefly as possible explain how you can benefit from this program.

**How much can a member receive?** Maximum scholarship is \$1000 per year and \$2000 during a member's Extension career

**How do you qualify?** A member must have contributed a minimum of \$40 to the scholarship fund by June 30 **one year prior** to applying. Meaning to apply for scholarship funds in 2007 the \$40 or more must have been contributed by June 30, 2006. Likewise to be qualified to apply next year (2008) you must have contributed at least \$40 by June 30, 2007.

**Where do I send the initial \$40 contribution?** You should first check with your state scholarship chair as some states like to keep track of their member's contributions. If sending directly to the NACAA, send the \$40 to the NACAA Scholarship Chair. The Chair will record the contribution and forward the check to the NACAA Treasurer.

**Are there other ways to qualify?** Yes, items donated each year to the NACAA Scholarship Auction count toward the \$40 contribution. The member donating the item gets credit equal to what the item sells for at the auction. Many members have received recognition for having contributed 100's and even 1000's of dollars to the scholarship fund this way.

**How can the scholarship funds be used?** The funds awarded can be used by individuals or group professional improvement which may include advanced degrees, graduate credits, tours, seminars, research or other specialized training.

**How long do I have to use the scholarship?** The study or training must start within 14 months of the date it is awarded and cannot be initiated before the application is approved.

**When are the funds distributed?** The funds are not awarded until 60 days prior to the study or training beginning.

**Are there other requirements?** Yes, a simple report is required following the completion of the training which must include a 75 word abstract of the educational activity and documentation the funds were spent according to the stated educational objectives of the application.

**How do I apply?** Go to the NACAA website and complete the NACAA Scholarship Application Form. Be sure any supporting materials are included when sending the application.

**What is the application deadline?** June 1 of each year.

Hopefully, the above questions and answers help to clarify the fact that the NACAA scholarship program is an excellent opportunity for our members to obtain financial assistance for a wide range of educational options. I personally planned one educational tour and participated in two other tours partially funded by scholarship funds. They were great opportunities to travel as a group, learn and visit other states all in one effort. Besides where else can get a 5000 percent return on a \$40 investment.

Written by: Alan B. Galloway, Southern Region Vice-Director