

The County Agent

A PUBLICATION OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Volume LXXV No. 2 June, 2014

NACAA - 6584 W. Duroc Road - Maroa, IL 61756 - (217)794-3700

2014 AM/PIC to feature Horticulture Super-Seminar Sunday, July 20th - 1:00-4:30 pm Keynote Speaker - Mr. P. Allen Smith Mobile Convention Center Courtesy of Bonnie Plants

P. Allen Smith is an award-winning designer, gardening and lifestyle expert. He is the host of two public television programs, P. Allen Smith's Garden Home, P. Allen Smith's Garden to Table and the syndicated 30-minute show P. Allen Smith Gardens. Smith is one of America's most recognized and respected garden and design experts, providing ideas and inspiration through multiple media venues. He is the author of the best-selling Garden Home series of books published by Clarkson Potter/Random House, including Bringing the Garden Indoors: Container, Crafts and Bouquets for Every Room and the recently published cookbook, Seasonal Recipes from the Garden inspired by the abundance of food from his farm and a family of great cooks.

Allen is very active on social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Allen's Blog and YouTube.

Smith also hosts his own radio program the "P. Allen Smith Show". His design and lifestyle advice is featured in several national magazines. Learn more at <http://www.pallensmith.com>.

Inspired by a childhood spent on the farm raising and showing livestock and poultry Allen has led a life of promoting good stewardship of the earth. In 2009 Smith founded the Heritage Poultry Conservancy, an organization dedicated to the preservation and support of all threatened breeds of domestic poultry.

• For NACAA, Mr. Smith will tell the story of his Moss Mountain Farm and Home, including a history of the farm. He will discuss test gardens, organic gardening, food production, urban homesteading, animal husbandry, and green building. He will reveal the inspiration behind his endeavors, including the work done on both the home and grounds. In addition, successes (the gardens, opening to the public, work with heritage breeds) and lessons learned (difficulties experienced) will be highlighted. P. Allen will share his insights into the design of the home and grounds which was done with many considerations in mind, including: architecture, green techniques and features, and functionality needs – filming, photography, meetings, entertainment, etc. Please visit <http://www.pallensmith.com/> to learn more about P. Allen Smith and make plans now to be inspired at the 2014 NACAA AM/PIC in Mobile, Alabama.

Agenda for the Horticulture Super Seminar:

Welcome & Introductions, Stacey Bealmear, Horticulture & Turf National Chair

1:00-2:30 p.m.

- Introduction of Keynote Speaker, Ms. Lois Chaplin of Bonnie Plants
- Keynote Address: Mr. P. Allen Smith



2:30-4:30 pm

- Welcome & Introductions, Annette Heisdorffer, Horticulture Committee Southern Region Vice Chair

Introduction of Alabama Master Gardener Panel, Ms. Kerry Smith, ACES Home Grounds Team Co-Coordinator & State MG Program Coordinator

Alabama Master Gardener Presentations: "Farm, Home & Garden EXPO" by the Chilton County Master Gardener Association

...This is a premier example of how Master Gardener volunteers enhance Extension programs through support of both the local County Extension Office and the Chilton Research and Extension Center

(continued on page 2)

“Wiregrass Community Projects & Partnerships” by the Wiregrass Master Gardener Association
 ... Hear stories from Aunt Katie’s Garden at Landmark Park, SE Alabama Youth Services project (SAYS), and the research project at Dothan Area Botanical Gardens.

“Prattvillage Gardens” by the Autauga County Master Gardener Association
 ... It’s a demonstration garden, southern style, displaying ornamentals and perennials, and a small chapel located in the Historic District. Embraced by the community, this project is a widely used asset for events, photo opportunities and even weddings.

“Gulf Coast Gardening” by the Baldwin County Master Gardener Association
 ... Growing veggies along the coast presents unique challenges. Discover how Master Gardeners assist the public in addressing these challenges. Learn new ideas from several civic projects/programs we’ll share.

“Lunch and Learn” by the Central Alabama Master Gardener Association
 ... From container gardens to rain gardens, from vermiculture to attracting pollinators, the 12 month series covers a wide gamut of garden topics. This low-input, brown-bag lunch program hosted at the Extension office has big impact.

“Table Top Gardens” by the East Central Alabama Master Gardener Association
 ... This creative project is at a local senior center. We’ll show construction from beginning to end and how the final gardens are put into use for all to enjoy!

Please visit <http://www.aces.edu/mg/> for more information on the Master Gardener Volunteer Program in Alabama. Learn how our Statewide Master Gardener Helpline – 1-877-252-GROW (4769) serves our citizens through Seven Regions across the State, manned by MG Volunteers 5 days a week....as our clientele like to remind us...you get to talk to a real person with real knowledge, that can answer real questions to real issues in the home and garden!

2014 NACAA AM/PIC Farmers Market

As a final addition to our Horticulture Super Seminar, Alabama Master Gardeners will be on hand on Sunday in the Pre-function area of the Mobile Convention Center, main floor, with even more wonderful exhibits displayed as Farm Market Vendors....here’s what to expect:

Autauga County MGA – **“Demonstration & Community Vegetable Garden”** ... used to teach children, passers-by, and to donate produce to a local food bank.

Baldwin County MGA – **“Gulf Coast Gardening”** ... veggies along the coast present unique challenges. Discover how Master Gardeners assist the public in addressing these challenges.

Capital City Master Gardeners – **“Lilly’s Garden and Outdoor Classroom”**just as it sounds, this garden supports learning, the arts, and community enjoyment. It’s at Forest Avenue Magnet Elementary School in Montgomery Alabama.

Central Alabama MGA – **“Cookbook Project”**a collection of recipes from the garden that was used to teach growing and using herbs and vegetables

Chilton County MGA – **“Farm, Home & Garden EXPO”**a premier example of how Master Gardener volunteers enhance Extension programs and activities at the Chilton Research and Extension Center

East Central Alabama MGA – **“Table Top Gardens”**a creative project at a local senior center. See construction from beginning to end and how the final garden is put into use for all to enjoy!

Master Gardeners of North Alabama – **“Demonstration Vegetable Garden”**winner of the State and National Search for Excellence Award this demonstration plot is at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens

Mobile County MGA – **“Farm to Table”**connecting local fruit and vegetable producers to local chefs and restaurants through community horticulture education promoting “Eat Local Eat Fresh” in an urban setting.

The County Agent

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AM/PIC Updates

Gary Finch Outdoors - Life Member Travelogue Speaker

Gary Finch will be guest speaker at the Life Member Travelogue at the NACAA AM/PIC in Mobile, AL on Thursday July 24 from 9:00-11:00 am. Below is a short biography found on Gary Finch's website:

"A fishing trip with Gary Finch Outdoors brings information, entertainment, and the immediate desire to get out of the house. Gary has taken all walks of fishermen and women on trips and you'll meet them on each episode of Gary Finch Outdoors. From the very young and inexperienced, to the big game tournament trail of professional bill-fishing, nobody is left on the dock.

Gary Finch Outdoors gives viewers every type of fishing and shows the up-close, "how top's" that encourage viewers to try it themselves. With the Gulf of Mexico at Gary's backdoor it's only natural to see a full season of both summer and off season saltwater fishing. Speckled Trout, Redfish, Snapper, King Mackerel, Amberjack, Grouper . . . the list goes on and on because we catch them all on Gary Finch Outdoors. Meet the people and the boats that bring home the best the Gulf has to offer."



Please join us on July 24th as we learn more about the Saltwater fishing treasures of the Gulf of Mexico.

Additional Luncheon Opportunities for Thursday, July 24, 2014

During the initial registration process the number of Educational Luncheons opportunities for Thursday, July 24 were limited. Many of you who signed up for the luncheons which were available, will find that those tickets were "dropped" from your original registration (due to limited numbers of tickets available). There will be three to four additional Luncheons available to you on a *first come/first served basis*. Please check the Registration Desk upon your arrival to pick up a ticket.

Remember...it will be Sunny & Hot in Alabama

There's nothing like summertime in Alabama! Please remember to dress appropriately for the Gulf Coast (especially on Tour Day). It is recommended to dress in light weight, light colored clothing...bring a hat...sunscreen (SPF 55). Don't forget your bug spray or lotion...as Alabama bugs are known to bite!

You might also want to have a small umbrella available with you - as afternoon showers are common. Mobile has already had 40+ inches of rain already this year.

Want to keep up with the latest 2014 AM/PIC News?

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (see links below and on the back inside cover). We will post and share updates during the conference.

<https://www.facebook.com/NACAA2014>

<https://twitter.com/nacaa2014>

Also...if you want to see the schedule of events throughout the conference - upload this friendly mobile application -

<https://free.eventbase.com/download>

- once you have it installed - search for the NACAA Annual Meeting - and the schedule will be at your fingertips throughout the meeting.



"Discover Our Southern Charm"

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

October, 2014

Post AM/PIC Edition

Deadline for Articles: September 1, 2014

Mail Date: September 20, 2014

December, 2014

Awards/Committee Directory

Deadline for articles: December 1, 2014

Mail Date: December 28, 2014

Call for 2014/2015 Journal of the NACAA National Peer Reviewers

Journal of the NACAA National Peer Reviewers are the backbone of our journal. They provide the peer reviews for every paper that is published in our journal (and for many more that are not). Reviewers are expected to review between 3-5 articles a year. This is considered national service and a good addition to your resume or curriculum vitae. The requirements to be a National Peer Reviewer are:

- Desire to help your colleagues in the NACAA
- Have published at least 1 article in a peer reviewed journal (2 peer reviewed statewide Extension bulletins may be substituted)
- Agree to submit reviews in a timely fashion

To apply, send an email to scbrown4@alaska.edu (Steve Brown) addressing the points above including your subject matter areas.

SUPER SEMINARS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

In addition to the Horticulture & Turfgrass Super Seminar highlighted on the front 2 pages - three Super Seminars are being offered at this years AM/PIC you will want to participate in:

Agricultural Economics and Community Development Committee - Thursday, July 24 from 1:00-4:00 pm discussing two hot topics: farm business transfer and crop insurance changes in the 2014 Farm Bill.

Agronomy & Pest Management Committee - Thursday, July 24 from 1:00-4:00 pm discussing Soil Health & Cover Crops.

Climate and Agriculture Sessions - Monday, July 21 from 1:00-3:00 pm (Member Presentations) and Thursday, July 24 from 1:00-5:00 pm discussing Risk Management and Weather Extremes, Manure Management, Climate Adaptation Practices, and Climate Decision Support Tools.

NACAA/Outstanding Young Farmer Partnership

By: Wes Smith, Georgia

As the liaison to Outstanding Young Farmer, I was able to attend their National Competition in Rapid City S.D. in February. You would have thought going to S.D. in February, I would run into weather problems out there. Ice storms shut Atlanta down. It was great to get to work with such a great group of producers and help get more media coverage for them. Starting early February the RFD website had the bio's of the top 10 National Finalist on their site and then Local Radio and TV covered the program. I had a local ABC and Fox station come and do pieces on the program. Thanks to Dan Oedekoven, Rapid City S.D. Extension Office for sending me contacts to local media.

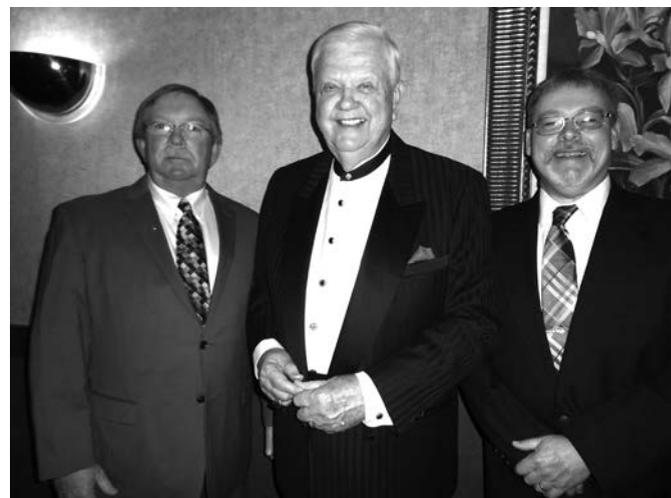
Well it's time to start thinking about nominating farmers for this year. We will need a new group of nominees by August 1, 2014. Producers could not have reached their 41st birthday before 12-31-2014. Look at the NACAA website under other awards for all the rules and applications (http://www.nacaa.com/awards/other_awards.php). We all work with some outstanding producers and should take the time to get them nominated. The Outstanding Young Farmers group would like to have 35 states represented for the next Awards Congress. There were 25 for the 2014 Congress.

We will possibly have an incentive program for NACAA members. We have asked for \$2500.00 in sponsor money from John Deere to be split between agents that have a producer in the top 10 so the agent will be able to attend the OYF Congress. We hope to know by late fall if this is approved. I encourage everyone to look at your young producers and nominate a good young producer. OYF will be in Cherry Hill, New Jersey in February 2015.



2014 NOYF Finalists

John & Angie Halverson (Arkansas)
Jamie & Christiana Jones (Connecticut)
Ben & Janelle Johnson (Iowa)
Christian & Julie Richard (Louisiana)
Scott & Ali Ferry (Michigan)
Brian & Jennifer Harbage (Ohio)
Eric & Christy Seidenberger (Texas)
Phillip & Michelle Hickman (Virginia)
Brian & Nicole Barlass (Wisconsin)
Patrick Zimmerer (Wyoming)



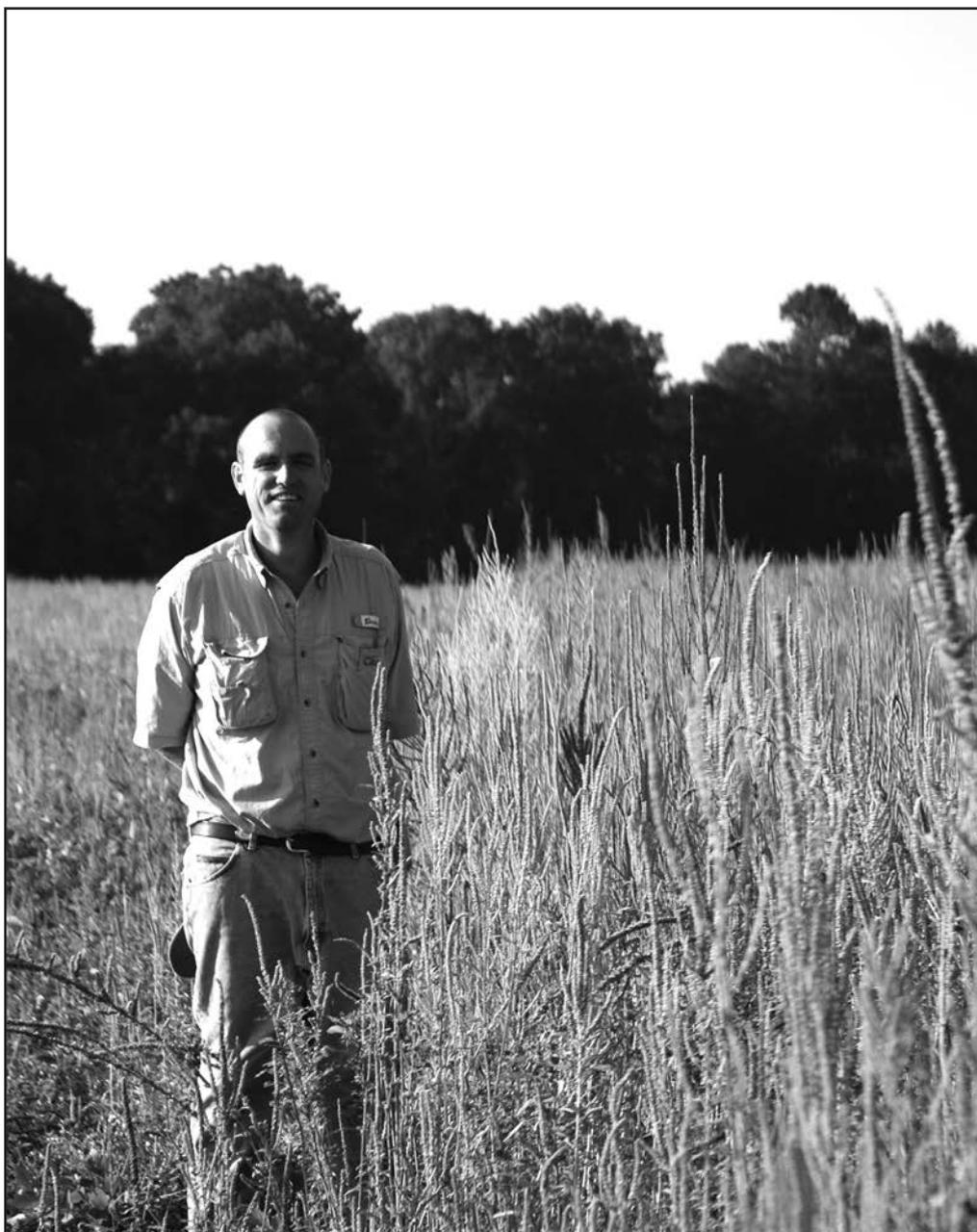
NACAA Past President (left) Paul Wigley with Master of Ceremonies Orion Samuelson (center) and NACAA Past President Paul Craig.

Jeremy Kichler and the Resistance Fighter of the Year Leadership Program

Taking His Career to the Next Level

Jeremy Kichler is a key player in the battle against resistance issues on the farm. If you are already familiar with the ongoing fight growers are waging against resistance, there is a good chance you already know his name. If you have not heard of him yet, a quick glance at his resume may convince you to commit his name to memory. Presently, Kichler is a University of Georgia Cooperative Extension County Coordinator for Colquitt County. When he was an Extension agent in Macon County, Georgia, Kichler helped identify the first known case of glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth. He has presented numerous presentations at conferences on managing glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth and has assisted the UGA Weed Science group with over a hundred university research trials. He has come to be recognized as a forward-thinker and leader in resistance management. And in 2009, he became part of the first class to join the Syngenta Resistance Fighter of the Year Leadership Program.

The Syngenta Resistance Fighter of the Year Leadership Program began as a way to honor agricultural advisors, like Kichler, who have helped growers manage resistance issues on their operations. Initially, the program focused exclusively on those who proactively developed strategies for managing herbicide-resistant weeds. But the battle against resistance is not confined to weeds, so Syngenta



has expanded the program to include those advisors who help fight insect, disease and nematode resistance as well.

The Benefits of Being a Resistance Fighter

The Resistance Fighter of the Year Leadership Program is a multifaceted program with multiple benefits for its members. First and foremost, Syngenta created the program to recognize and reward those agricultural

stewards who are on the front lines helping growers fight resistance. Beyond recognition, the program connects members from around the country, creating a network of practical expertise in resistance management with a wide range of perspectives. Members of this elite group can share information about the issues they have dealt with or currently face. They can look to each other to find out which management techniques have worked and which have failed. They have opportunities to interact with other resistance experts, to attend national farm trade shows and to witness firsthand the research Syngenta is pursuing to combat resistance. The program also provides its members with opportunities share their own knowledge with a wider audience through forums such as the Resistance Fighter Management Minute and Resistance Roundtable #ResistanceRT.



For Kichler, the Resistance Fighter of the Year Leadership Program has provided opportunities he otherwise may not have received. It has helped him share his knowledge and afforded him chances to travel and interact with people outside of his local area, broadening his perspective and sharpening his expertise.

Kichler actively participates in the Resistance Fighter Management Minute, an online update where he is able to share information about the resistance issues he is seeing in his area and offer advice about how to handle these issues. He has witnessed the beginning stages of industry research on trips to the Syngenta Research Center at Vero Beach, Florida. He has visited the Farm Progress Show to discuss resistance problems and solutions with other experts from around the country. “This program has helped me gain recognition as an expert in weed resistance,” says Kichler. “It’s helped me be known for something, and as a county extension agent, it’s been a really good career builder for me. From time to time growers see you appear on the page of a magazine as a resistance expert and I think that means a lot to them.”

Do you want to apply? Do you know someone who should?

Asked what he would tell a peer who is considering applying to the program, Kichler replied, “I’d tell them it’s a great opportunity to learn, travel, and interact with others in the industry from other parts of the country and get to know past Resistance Fighters of the Year. There is a broad network of knowledge that members have at their disposal and being involved in the program will give you a lot of opportunities to enrich and advance your career, especially if you’re in a county extension promotion process.”

Consultants, county extension agents and other agronomists who have helped producers in their area improve resistance management practices for weeds, insects, diseases or nematodes are eligible to apply. The 2014 application window is open from June 17 until September 15.

Please visit www.resistancefighter.com if you are interested in applying to the Resistance Fighter of the Year Leadership Program or if you know someone whose contributions toward resistance management on the farm deserve to be recognized.

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2013-2014

NACAA Report to the Membership

President
Henry D. Dorough, Alabama



Robert Frost once wrote a poem that ended with these three lines:
 "...Two roads diverged in a wood,
 and I –

I took the one less traveled by,
 And that has made all the difference."

How can I begin to describe the path I have taken with NACAA? Several words come to mind. Exciting. Challenging. Inspiring. Motivating. Career-Changing. Engaging. Encouraging. Life-Altering. The list can go on and on. All in all, this has been the most thrilling time in my career.

While writing this report, word came across the news that the famous poet, Maya Angelou had passed away. I am always inspired to read her work and routinely look for a quote from her writings that fit particular situations. She once wrote: "You are the sum total of everything you've ever seen, heard, eaten, smelled, been told, forgot – it's all there. Everything influences each of us, and because of that I try to make sure that my experiences are positive." How true these words ring in my ear. My goal is to always strive to ensure every soul I come upon shares in that positive experience as the result of our encountering.

The role of NACAA President is really a very easy one considering all of the committed professionals engaged in the mission of our association. My colleagues in Alabama are the perfect example. They undertook a massive challenge to host the 99th Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference in Mobile, AL. Over the course of more than four years, this team of remarkable individuals has planned an incredible conference that is certain to positively impact the careers of every Extension professional who attends. Arriving on Sunday, participants will experience a special presentation from southern gardening, design and television personality Mr. P. Allen Smith. Following the "Welcome to Alabama" meal, the opening session on Sunday evening will feature a once-in-a-lifetime performance by Randy Owen, lead singer of the music group Alabama.

The 4-H Talent Revue on Monday evening will be like none you have ever witnessed in the past. RFD-TV personality Kevin Sport and his band will work with the talented youth to produce an extraordinary event that will be broadcast on Kevin's show on RFD-TV in the future. As a result of Kevin's participation, RFD is sending their production vehicle to Mobile to broadcast their Rural Radio show live from our AM/PIC for the first time in the history of our association.

Tour day on Wednesday will showcase a wide selection of Gulf coast agriculture and agribusiness and finish with a fantastic feast of seafood at Battleship Park on Mobile Bay featuring the USS Alabama as well as other impressive historical naval and aviation displays. The entire park will be reserved for AM/PIC participants and will surely inspire youth and adult alike.

The NACAA committees have had a busy spring selecting award recipients and planning professional development sessions throughout the conference. These oral and poster sessions feature outstanding, unique and impactful programs conducted by Extension professionals from across the country. Special in-depth sessions featuring Climate Science, the 2014 Farm Bill, Farm Business Transfer, Soil Health and Cover Crops are also planned during the week.

All of the remarkable activities associated with the conference are the result of the dedicated work of the women and men volunteering for leadership roles in our association. While the role of President is an important one, the full body of work of this association would not be complete were it not for the time and talent of the entire group of volunteer leaders on the state and national level. Thank you all for your devotion to NACAA.

I have had the privilege of leading the board of directors through the Post-Galaxy meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, Winter Board meeting in Mobile, AL and a Spring Board meeting in Portland, Maine, in addition to monthly conference calls. I attended the NACAA Western Region Professional Improvement Conference in Ft. Collins, CO, where my reception was unexpected and quite humbling. The professional development was as high in quality as any experienced at our annual meeting.

As your President, I have had the honor of representing NACAA on the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) board, participating in monthly conference calls and

two face-to-face board meetings. I served on the planning committee for the JCEP Leadership Conference in Memphis, TN, and accepted the position of Policy Committee Chair for JCEP. Additionally, I participated in the JCEP PILD conference in Alexandria, VA. While there, Past-President Paul Craig, Vice-President Cynthia Gregg and I met with various officials in USDA and NIFA to build a common understanding of mission links between local Cooperative Extension offices and USDA, and to build future professional development partnerships between USDA/NIFA and NACAA.

The NACAA Committee on Diversity was established this year with the charge of making a comprehensive review of diversity within the association membership and leadership structure and to examine our relationships with 1890, 1994 and Hispanic programs. NACAA has changed considerably during the past 99 years of our history and we owe it to our membership to continually evaluate and ensure we are meeting every need associated with our mission. We need to have a clear understanding of the perceptions of our membership and others about the association and how these perceptions effect active participation. Anthony Tuggle from Tennessee chairs this committee representing a diverse makeup of our membership and I know their findings and recommendations will help enrich the careers of our members and position NACAA as a model professional association in our second century.

Serving as your President has been a great experience for me but I cannot take credit for all of our accomplishments. Each member of your elected Board of Directors plays a unique and significant role in ensuring the smooth functioning of this association. Many thanks to all of the officers and directors for your sincerity and work ethic for your role in NACAA. A special thank you goes to our Policy Chair Chuck Otte for always being available, actively listening, thinking ahead and spending an enormous amount of time interpreting policy for the many discussions that float around during board meetings.

I cannot boast enough about the dedication of our Executive Director Scott Hawbaker. In years past, many of Scott's responsibilities for this association were handled by the President. With the workload I have realized between NACAA and my Extension position, I cannot begin to fathom the amount of time this year would have required from me had Scott not been hired by the association. I am deeply grateful to Scott for his counsel and friendship during the year, especially as the monthly phone calls turned into weekly and then daily as the AM/PIC approached.

I want to thank my Alabama coworkers for their exhaustive efforts to put together a world-class event for our membership. For them I offer this quote from Maya Angelou: "Love life, engage in it, give it all you've got. Love

it with a passion, because life truly does give back, many times over, what you put into it." The passion you demonstrated the past four years for hosting the 2014 NACAA AM/PIC has resulted in an incredible professional development experience for our members and their families. Thanks for a job well done! My co-workers and the ACES Leadership Team have provided me with unbelievable support during my entire tenure on the NACAA Board and for that I am eternally grateful!

Often during the course of planning the 2014 annual meeting, my good friend Kent Stanford talked about relationships; connections built during your entire life. You never know when someone from your distant past or even a recent client contact will become an important link to your success with any endeavor. Take time to build positive relationships with everyone you meet. With that I'll close with one last quote from Maya Angelou, my favorite and most used quote: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." I look forward to seeing everyone in Mobile. Thank you for a great year!

**President-Elect
Mike Hogan, Ohio**



NACAA has nearly completed its first century of existence, a milestone which few organizations accomplish. Next year in South Dakota we will celebrate our 100th AMPIC. And celebrate we will! NACAA is a very unique professional association, one steeped in tradition yet constantly changing to meet the needs of our members. Involvement of families and life members in our AMPIC set NACAA apart from most of our peer associations. Our professional development programs such as the professional improvement tours at the AMPIC and our professional journal are the envy of other professional associations.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your President-Elect during this past year and I look forward to serving as your President during the Centennial Year of NACAA in 2015. It has been a joy to work with our dedicated NACAA Board, Council Chairs, and committee members this past year.

One of the roles of the NACAA President-Elect is to work with our Executive Director to strengthen relationships with donors and cultivate new donor relationships. The current climate for philanthropy certainly has challenged many organizations, and NACAA is no different than any other organization which relies on corporate support and donations to carry out its mission. Despite the current climate, NACAA has been able to maintain its current level of support from corporate partners.

Much of our organization's success in this area is due to the extraordinary work of our Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker. Scott is responsible for maintaining the positive ongoing relationships which NACAA enjoys with our corporate donor partners. The President-Elect of our organization changes each year, but the constant in our ongoing relationships with donors is Scott.

You as an NACAA member also have a role to play with donor development. Don't forget that every potential corporate donor decision-maker lives in some county agent's county! I challenge you to identify individuals in your community with whom you might develop a donor relationship with on behalf of NACAA. And don't forget about the financial incentives for NACAA members who are successful in this area. Outstanding donor support from our corporate partners is yet another dimension which sets NACAA apart from other professional organizations.

I look forward to seeing you at what promises to be an incredible AMPIC in Mobile in just a few short weeks, and especially look forward to NACAA's Centennial Year in 2015!

**Vice-President
Cynthia L. Gregg, Virginia**



It has truly been an amazing, fast paced year. I am humbled by the amount of work the Committees for NACAA accomplish during the year and this year is certainly no different. The three NACAA Councils: Extension Development, Professional Improvement, and Program Recognition have been very busy in this "short" year. The Council Chairs: Dan Kluchinski, Mary Sobba, and Richard Brozowski have put in many hours and have done a wonderful job. The National Chairs and Regional Vice Chairs went to work immediately after Galaxy and have done a fantastic job. There will be some great Super Seminars, Posters, Peer Presentations and Trade Talks during AMPIC in addition to Webinars before and after. The time and efforts the Committees put into helping NACAA Members is unparalleled.

Below are some items I would like to share with you:

The Committee Handbook has been updated; almost completely overhauled, so hopefully future changes will be minimal. This has been a major work in progress as the Committee Handbook is a fluid document. The NACAA Policy Handbook, Chapter 6, which deals with Committee Work, has been updated. This has been a great opportunity to have the Policy updated with the Committee Handbook. Now that we have a good policy guideline for committee members in Chapter 6 and the Committee Handbook has updated job descriptions, reports and more for committee

members. I would like to say another thank you to Retiring Senior Council Chair Dan Kluchinski and his committee for their work on the Handbook and Chuck Otte and his committee for their work on Chapter 6 of the NACAA Policy Handbook. These updates will hopefully make Committee Member's jobs easier to understand and more streamlined.

Communication is paramount to committees. It is also very important to have State Committee contacts for the Committees to communicate with during the year. If there is not a State Chair/Contact then the State President gets the information to share with others. State Presidents can get on the NACAA Website and update State Chair/Contacts. Even if the State Chair/Contact has a multiple year term, the page needs to be updated annually.

The various programs represented by NACAA Committees are a way for NACAA Members to help fellow members achieve goals of presenting workshops or posters, winning awards, and facilitating network opportunities. Many of these endeavors are needed for promotion of our members for their jobs. Committee members also have a chance to develop more leadership skills, communication skills, and a chance to network with Colleagues from across the country. There are openings every year in a rotation across regions. Keep an eye out for an opening in your Region on a Committee you are interested in serving on. Many will tell you that serving on a committee is rewarding and you do learn quite a bit. Please consider applying.

If you have not had a chance to submit anything to any of the committees and are thinking about it, please contact your Regional Vice Chair for the Program you are in submitting to next year and for many more. They are a wealth of information and can assist you with the process. Also there are some Quick Start Guides on the NACAA Website; these may help answer some of your questions.

This year we will have a NACAA National Committee Member Workshop and Luncheon on Sunday along with a NACAA National Committee Recognition Breakfast on Thursday. These events are by invitation. If you are currently serving as a State Chair/Contact and will be attending the 2014 AMPIC in Mobile, mark your calendar for the Committee Meetings on Monday afternoon. Your input is valuable and will insure we continue with high quality presentations, posters and awards.

Now please indulge me as I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank you to all of you for your support this past year. I have a few special "Thank You's", if you will allow. To the Virginia Membership, other Virginia Cooperative Extension Organizations and Administration: Thank you can never truly express my gratitude and appreciation for all of your support. I would also like to Thank the NACAA Council Chairs, Committee State Chairs, Regional Vice Chairs and

National Chairs; you all are amazing doing your committee jobs. I have served as a State Chair/Contact, Regional Vice Chair and National Chair on a Committee; I truly appreciate all you do for NACAA Members. I thought I knew quite a bit about how NACAA Committee's work. Some things I know but there is so much more going on that I do not know and have been able to learn. I would like to say it has been a privilege to learn more about all of your efforts on your committees.

A Very Big Thank you to all of you, NACAA Members, for all you do. It has truly been an honor to serve you this year as Vice-President. I look forward to seeing you in Mobile, Alabama July 20-24 for the Ninety-Ninth Annual NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference.

**Secretary
Richard Fechter, Kansas**



What an incredible three years this has been! Serving the third and final year of my term as NACAA Secretary has been full of many rewarding challenges and moments.

Many colleagues have asked me why I wanted to be NACAA Secretary three years ago, 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 link of all board meeting documents, with the exception of financial reports, as attachments to the minutes posted online. Posting of the minutes and all the attachments is a tedious and time consuming process. However, to keep our membership informed it is what is needed to be done. 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 was reappointed to the Journal of NACAA Chair position for another term and has done an excellent job. The Journal of NACAA Chair is now treated like any other National Committee Chair in regards to expenses to the AM/PIC being paid. Also, the retiring peer reviewers for the Journal of NACAA will be recognized at the National Committee Members Breakfast, like other retiring committee

chairs and vice chairs. 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. In past years, the secretary was charged with collecting annual historically significant documents for storage at the USDA Agricultural Library. However, this has not been done for several years because of costs and other issues related to 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. Many items have been collected over the last few years, so we are closer than we have ever been to having this process completed. We are looking at potential venues or resources in which to store our historical documents. A couple of options are being explored for storage of NACAA historical records and I feel we are close to making a decision. Hopefully my successor will be able to get this task completed and get our records updated and stored properly.

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 I spend reviewing recordings and proofing the write up of minutes prior to posting them 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 and it's an honor to call them friends.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your NACAA Secretary these past three years. It has been a wonderful experience and one of the best things I have done in my 20 years of Extension. I am a better Extension Professional and more important a better person because of serving as NACAA Secretary. I am deeply grateful to my Kansas colleagues for their support and encouragement and for all of the lifelong friendships I have made along the way. I look forward to seeing you in Mobile.

**Treasurer
Alan B. Galloway,
Tennessee**



It is my pleasure to report the financial condition of NACAA remains strong. Through the development of the annual budget approved by the voting delegates each year NACAA has stayed on the path of solid fiscal condition.

As treasurer I have strived to maintain accurate records, report at least monthly to the NACAA Board and process all payments in a timely manner. In most cases, expense vouchers have been paid within two days of being received, many in the same day.

To assist our budgeting process, the fiscal committee has reviewed the changes in expenses over the last few years. Thanks to the continuity of record keeping by previous treasurers the data was both available and consistent in quality. This investigation has provided insights for developing the budget for future years and highlighted those areas needing the most attention. On the good side financially, membership numbers were up slightly in 2014 and our investments which did well in 2013 and have continued growing in 2014.

While participation in the Galaxy IV meeting was expensive for NACAA. Officers and directors from previous years had made plans for the negative financial impact of Galaxy by setting aside funds to minimize the effect. Part of these funds are covering the registration voucher incentive provided to those who paid the high cost of attending Galaxy IV to reduce registration costs to attend the 2014, 2015 or 2016 NACAA annual meeting and professional improvement conference (AM/PIC). Many members registering to attend in Mobile put their voucher to use.

Since the Galaxy year was my first full calendar year as treasurer, 2014 brought a return to a normal planning and financial year as it relates to the AM/PIC. Working with the Alabama members developing and revising the AM/PIC budget, has been an educational but pleasant experience. The many programs and committees involved in holding an AM/PIC requires everyone to keep a close eye on expenses to insure our members receive a high quality professional improvement program while we provide entertaining and educational options for the spouses, sons and daughters and life members.

The NACAA Board continues to remain careful, conservative stewards of our association's funds. The policies and procedures in place guide the officers, directors and committee chairs and help NACAA to remain a financially strong association.

I sincerely appreciate the trust placed in me by the members of NACAA and I will strive to keep "watching the road" financially during the remainder of my time as NACAA treasurer.

**Past President
Paul H. Craig, Pennsylvania**



Where do I begin? First, a word of thanks to all of you, the members of NACAA, for providing me with the most memorable experience throughout my career as a county agent. As I have stated many times before, this leadership opportunity has made me a better county agent for my peers and my clientele. Second, I would like to thank all of the board members and council and committee chairs who I have had the honor to serve with and to our executive director, Scott Hawbaker for your leadership and contributions to NACAA. Your support, guidance and encouragement have been invaluable to me and to our association. And your friendship will last me my lifetime.

I would also like to express my thanks to the members of my state association, Pennsylvania, for all of the extra efforts and contributions you made from my campaign as vice president to the Galaxy IV Conference in Pittsburgh last year. I can only hope that I have made you as proud representing PA as I am of you. I would also like to thank the administration of Cooperative Extension at Penn State University for the providing me with the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of county agents from across the United States.

And my utmost thanks to my wife, Carol, for her encouragement and patience. Her support and opinions frequently provided me with an understanding ear to listen and discuss issues during all of my years as county agent. Thank you all again!

In my role of Past President I represented NACAA on the Joint Council of Extension Professionals board. This is a three year term as the board is comprised of the President elect, President and Past President of the 6 Extension professional associations: NACAA, ANREP, NACDEP, NAE4-HA, NEAFCS and ESP. In addition JCEP also has representatives from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) and the Extension Committee on Organization and Planning (ECOP). This, too, provided me with opportunities to work with outstanding leaders from these associations from across the US. JCEP conducts professional development opportunities for Extension agents on leadership at the Leadership Conference and public issues during the PILD conference. In addition the JCEP group provided coordination for the Galaxy IV Conference for all association members.

As a result of the JCEP role I was able to participate in the Centennial Celebration of the Smith Lever Act in Washington DC on May 8. Being in Washington with the leadership of Extension from across the US was very invigorating to me. In addition while I was there I was invited to give a webinar to the staff at NIFA reflecting on the changes that I have experienced and observed throughout my career. It was a great chance to share the evolving story of county agents and the vital role you serve to agriculture and youth.

Probably the highlight for me this past year was the chance to serve as a judge and attend the 2014 Outstanding Young Farmers (OYF) Annual Meeting in Rapid City SD. Scott Gabbard, IN, Chair of the NACAA Ag Issues and Public Relations Committee and Wes Smith, GA, NACAA Special Assignment to the OYF organization have worked diligently to build a strong relationship for NACAA with the OYF Fraternity. John Deere is their national sponsor. The OYF members recognize the contributions county agents make supporting agriculture. The conference was outstanding and the 4 national winners are truly leaders and contributors to the future of agriculture across the United States.

I would encourage you to nominate one of your outstanding young farmers (< 40 years of age) for this recognition. Deadline for nominations is August 1. Check out the OYF website for additional information. I guarantee that your nominees will have an experience unlike anything they have ever had.

Finally, Galaxy IV. I will forever remember the times spent planning, encouraging and finally completing this conference last year. From the time when I was on the board as a director from the NE region and the leadership from PACAA proposed the idea of NACAA becoming a full participant to the board and the voting delegates agreeing to participate to the actual committee work to join forces with the JCEP planning committee to the actual conference Galaxy IV will forever be a part of my NACAA leadership experience. I am proud of the contributions NACAA, PACAA and the NE Ag Agents made to the success of this conference. Though challenging at times, you all made this a memorable experience for everyone in attendance.

And finally in closing my term on the board I would like to thank all of the Life Members of NACAA and PACAA for your guidance throughout my career. The many agents, who are now Life members who I have met and learned from, I will be forever in your debt. From across our great county there are too many Life Members to shout out to but a special thanks to the leaders from PA: Duane Duncan, Bill Kelly, Les Firth, and Ed Woods who hired me 35 years ago. Who would have ever imagined?

Policy Chair Chuck Otte, Kansas



The policy Committee has the responsibility of safeguarding the intent of the NACAA By-laws, assist in the preservation of the NACAA professional standards, review reports and proposed actions before they are presented to the Board of Directors and to offer an opinion (when requested) on new measures before action by the Board of Directors and membership. We also try to offer a historical perspective, to clarify/interpret policy and propose measures to meet the challenge of change, as well as revise the pages of the NACAA Policy Manual as needed. This may sound like an easy job, but it keeps one busy and on your toes!

Policy Chairs serve for two years and are past National Presidents. I have the privilege of following a long line of excellent Policy Chairs which has made my first year in this position a little easier. As Policy Chair I receive questions weekly, and sometimes multiple times a week, from officers and committee chairs checking to make sure that they are interpreting policy correctly. Many of these questions are fairly routine such that I can offer insight fairly quickly. Other questions cover areas that may not be well addressed in policy or policy has become dated and not up to current practice. At these times I poll the policy committee (made up of past national presidents) to garner a variety of opinions and to offer consensus opinions to the Board of Directors and committee chairs.

Every year a chapter of the NACAA Policy Handbook is to be reviewed and updated based on a schedule set in the Policy Handbook. This past year we have been working on Chapter 6, Committees. This has been the largest chapter in the Policy Handbook and was in need of a lot of revision and updating. The Handbook Review Committee worked very closely with the Council Chairs in an effort to streamline Chapter 6 by utilizing the NACAA Website and the NACAA Committee Members Handbook to move much of the routine month to month committee activity structure out of the Policy Handbook and to the website or Committee Members Handbook. Many of the forms that were in the Policy Handbook were no longer being used, or the current version was on the website. Items that dealt with fiscal issues and true policy stayed in the handbook, but the operational items were removed. While time consuming to work through, the Policy Review Committee (Cynthia Gregg, Paul Craig, Mark Nelson and myself) are very appreciative of the Council Chairs (Dan Kluchinski, Mary Sobba and Richard Brzozowski) for all of their hard work in getting the website, Committee Members Handbook and Policy

Handbook synchronized! While much work was done on Chapter 6, there are still items that need some attention, especially in the awards program and that work, along with a new chapter review, are in process already!

In addition to the annual review of a full chapter of the Policy Handbook, the Policy Chair is regularly assisting the board in updating and amending existing policies to reflect how the association is conducting business. Often this is as simple as putting on paper what has historically been practice. This past year the board also tackled the actual structure of the Policy Committee which resulted in a proposed By-laws change that was presented to the voting delegates. I thank the board and the voting delegates for their attention to this matter.

I look forward to my second year as Policy Chair and the challenges and opportunities that the Policy Committee will face. For the past year your Policy Committee has been: Gary Hall, Rick Gibson, Stan Moore, Paul Craig and myself.

**North Central Region
Director
Bradley Brummond,
North Dakota**



I can't believe it has been almost a year since becoming your North Central Region District Director. It has given me a whole new respect for those men and women that serve you on the national board. It has often been said that life is a series of choices. I have been making choices in my career that has led me to this point. I would encourage you as a member of NACAA to start making those choices by becoming active as vice chair in a national committee or if you are vice chair to become a national chair and progress up the leadership scale. History has proven that our membership likes to elect people with known leadership to national offices. If you aspire to a national office someday start early.

The theme that I see constantly in NACAA is change. NACAA is changing as the needs and diverse backgrounds of our members change. We are going to need help from our new Extension professionals to make this happen and remain relevant.

We are taking action on recommendations by our Futuring Committee. We now have a very fine group of men and women looking at diversity issues within our organization. While self-reflection can sometimes make us feel uncomfortable, it is necessary for growth. I stand firmly behind the self-reflection and growth. I will make this pledge to the membership; I am firmly committed to change and support any effort that makes our organization a more welcoming place to be a member.

I have attended all of the states' meetings with the exception of Kansas and Ohio. Chris Bruynis, North Central Region vice Director, has handled those I have been unable to attend. You have given me so much hope for the future when I see the great young professionals in each of your states. I think the challenge is to get them active in NACAA and have them attend AM/PICs early in their career and work them into leadership. The future does not belong to me it belongs to them and I think we are in good hands.

In conclusion, I must say that change seems to be our main issue right now. We must embrace this change while building on past traditions. I hope you will help us in this important endeavor.

**Northeast Region
Director
Peter Nitzsche, New Jersey**



My term as Director began at the end of a very busy time for the Northeast Region upon the completion of the Galaxy IV Conference. There was a tremendous amount of work by agents in Pennsylvania and throughout the Northeast in order to make this event a success. I would like to thank all of those agents who stepped up and helped out. One particular aspect of Galaxy IV I would like to highlight is the Professional Improvement Tours. Agents in the Northeast Region decided to add tours as an additional educational opportunity for Galaxy participants and it was a rousing success. I heard nothing but favorable comments about the educational and monetary value of the tours. This was one more example of the strength of agents in the Northeast Region working together as a team.

Another team I had the opportunity to serve on this past year was the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference Planning Committee. This committee is composed of members of the six Extension Associations utilized the Conference to both celebrate the past with the 100th Anniversary of the Smith Lever Act, as well as examine leadership skills needed to move Extension through the future. NACAA members in attendance had very productive interactions with Robert Hedberg, Director of Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) and overall attendees raved about the quality of the event.

While I have interacted with agents in the region at these large events I have also been able to attend a few state association meetings and have several more on my schedule. All the association meetings I have attended so far have combined some form of professional improvement opportunity with

their business meeting. What a privilege it is to be able to interact with agents from the region and see how they are improving the lives of people in their communities. I look forward to many more of these interactions during my term as Director and look to gather input on how NACAA can serve its' membership even better.

I want to thank my fellow agents from New Jersey for giving me this opportunity to serve NACAA. This is a once in a career opportunity that I was initially hesitant to take on but has already rewarded me tremendously. I look forward to seeing everyone in Mobile.

**Southern Region
Director
Gene McAvoy, Florida**



As this year's Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference comes to an end so will my two year term as Southern Region Director. I am humbled to have had the honor of serving the members of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in this capacity and cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for having been chosen for this opportunity.

It has truly been an inspiration to work alongside the extremely dedicated and talented group of men and women who have served as the Officers and Board of Directors of NACAA during my time on the Board and has instilled in me a new awareness of what it takes to make NACAA go. Serving as Regional Director has helped me grow both professionally and personally and has bought a new and rewarding dimension to my experience as a county agent.

My time as Southern Regional Director also enabled me to develop close friendships with great people on the Board and across this great land and has provided me an even greater appreciation for the great Extension work that each of you is doing in your home states.

It has been a real pleasure to represent NACAA at the many state association meetings that I have been privileged to attend over the past two years as I had the opportunity to travel across the South. Every trip not only reinforced the fact that we are all blessed to live in such a beautiful and diverse country but also provided the opportunity to make new friends, reconnect with old acquaintances and witness firsthand the professionalism and dedication that defines county agricultural agents across this great nation.

Each time I come away from each state's meeting impressed with the professional can-do attitude that the agents have not only for their own state association, but also for the

national association especially in these trying times where budgets and resources have been slashed. As Extension celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year, the professionalism and dedication that I have witnessed has filled me with optimism about the next 100 years and I am certain that Extension educators across this great land will continue to act as agents for change and empower their clients and communities by bring them unbiased researched based solutions for their lives.

I once again would like to thank the Florida Association for their confidence in me and for nominating me to serve as Southern Region Vice-Director in Overland Park, Kansas in 2011 as well as thank the other Southern Region states for their support and help during my term as Southern Region Director. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank my wife Donna for her patience and loving support throughout the past few years. It has been much easier with her at my side and knowing she has my back.

The past year has reinvigorated my commitment to NACAA and I would like to urge every member to take advantage of the opportunities that the association can provide to them. Our association remains unique in providing members with numerous professional improvement opportunities while incorporating love of country and family values into our meetings and professional activities. I would also encourage our members to become more involved in their state and national associations in whatever way possible as I am certain that they will find that their investment in time and effort will be repaid in multiple ways over the course of their careers as a County Agricultural Extension Agent.

As I complete my final year, I am proud to have served on the Board of Directors of this fine organization. While I sincerely hope that my service to NACAA and the Southern Region has helped advance the mission and goals of the Association, the greatest reward to date has been the enrichment and friendships it has bought into my life.

**Southern Region
Director
Michael Heimer, Texas**



It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the membership of the Southern Region and work with the NACAA Board. I have been a member of NACAA for over 35 years and served in a variety of roles with TCAAA and NACAA during those 35 years. The opportunity to serve as Southern Region Director has bought a new and rewarding dimension to my experience as a county agent.

It has been a real pleasure to represent NACAA at state association meetings that I have been privileged to attend this year. There are many good members giving leadership to great programs across this nation. The opportunity to travel across the South and witness the programs, volunteer cooperators, and the impacts our members have made is rewarding. Our members make the state associations strong which makes NACAA strong. The professionalism and dedication that defines county agricultural agents across this great nation is alive and well.

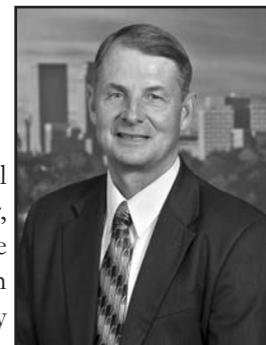
I would like to thank the Texas Association for their confidence in me and for nominating me to serve as Southern Region Vice-Director in Charleston, SC in 2012 as well as thank the other Southern Region states for their support and help during my first year as Director. I also want to extend special thanks to Jerry Clemons and Gene McAvoy for mentoring me and helping to prepare me for my term as Southern Region Director. It has been my pleasure to represent NACAA at the state association meetings. Each and every time I come away from each state's meeting impressed with the professional can-do attitude that the agents have not only for their own state association, but also for the national association especially in these trying times where budgets and resources have been slashed.

These state visits have allowed me to update members on board actions and NACAA business. State visits provide a better opportunity to get an insight into needs and concerns of our members, that has better prepared me to represent their opinions to the NACAA Board.

The past year has strengthened my commitment to NACAA and I would like to urge every member to take advantage of the opportunities that the association can provide to them. I would also encourage our members to become more involved in their state and national associations in whatever way possible as I am certain that they will find that their investment in time and effort will be repaid in multiple ways over the course of their careers as a County Agricultural Extension Agent.

The Cooperative Extension program is celebrating 100 years of service to the residents of this great Nation. The mission of each and every Extension Agent is to help make the lives of our clientele the best that it can be. If we continue to work together, we can make those goals a reality.

**Western Region
Director
Mark Nelson, Utah**



As I complete my second and final year as the Western Region Director, it is hard to believe how fast the last four years have gone by. I am proud to have had the opportunity to represent the western region these past two years. I have had many past directors tell me that this is the best position that you can have in NACAA and I think that they are right. You learn so much and receive so much in gaining friendship and knowledge by visiting the states in your region. It has been fantastic getting to know members of the different states in the west. These past two years I have had a chance to meet a large number of outstanding County Extension Agents, not only from the west but from all over the United States.

Things are really going great in the west. A couple of states continue to struggle with budget problems but overall most agents are upbeat and excited to do the work they do. Utah is really excited to be hosting the 2017 Am/Pic. Utah is a beautiful state and we are really looking forward to sharing it with all the NACAA members.

I want to thank my fellow Utah membership for giving me this opportunity to serve NACAA. If you want to know more about your national association the best way to do this is to get busy and serve on a committee. We are always looking for Vice Chairs and Chairs to serve on the many committees that keep NACAA running properly.

I would like to thank the Utah Extension Administration, the office staff in Beaver County, the county residents and of course, my wife and family for allowing me this opportunity to serve you and our association. I look forward to seeing everyone in Mobile, Alabama this summer.

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



The Professional Improvement Council (PIC) is one of the three Councils that make up the committee structure of NACAA. The Council consists of six committees: Ag Economics & Community Development, Agronomy & Pest Management, Animal Science, Horticulture & Turfgrass, Natural Resources/Aquaculture and Sustainable Agriculture. The purpose of this council is to further the professional improvement of our members.

Many of the activities of this council focus on presentations and seminars at the annual AM/PIC and educational tours. There will be excellent variety of presentations in Mobile. Sixty-six presentations are planned, so there should be something of interest for everyone.

Animal Science and Natural Resources committees have planned educational and fun pre-tour educational opportunities. This is the first time Natural Resources has planned and coordinated this type of event and even found one new sponsor to help with costs. The animal science tour will include a vast geographical portion of Alabama encompassing various livestock species.

Sustainable Agriculture has chosen four new fellows, from a record high twenty-nine applications. The committee is planning a hospitality function for members to learn more are the SARE Fellowship program. This will be an opportunity to talk with past and current fellows.

New this year is a Sunday afternoon horticulture super seminar featuring television personality and horticulturist P. Allen Smith. There will be two additional super seminars on Thursday afternoon. The ag economics committee has planned "Resources for Farm Business Transfer and Crop Insurance Changes in the 2014 Farm Bill". The agronomy committee has planned "Soil Health and Cover Crops". All of these seminars should be excellent sources of information, so please plan to attend.

NACAA is an organization that has numerous ways to be involved. One method of involvement is through the committee structure, which provides a way for members to 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. This is an excellent way to learn about our organization and share your skills.

Finally, with sincere gratitude, thank you to the committee chairs and vice chairs and state chairs. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. Your attention to details, extra effort and communications is what makes this committee structure successful, which benefits our organization. I am looking forward to seeing the results of a hard year of work and the people doing the work in Mobile.

Agronomy & Pest Management **Joni Harper, Missouri**



Agronomy/Pest Management Committee Members:
North Central Vice-Chair and National Chair – Joni Harper (Missouri)
West Vice-Chair – Jeff Anderson (New Mexico)
Northeast Vice-Chair – Paul Cerosaletti (New York)
Southern Vice-Chair - Wade Parker (Georgia)

On Thursday, July 24 at 1:00 pm we will be hosting a "Super Seminar" discussing Soil Health & Cover Crops.

Dr. Danielle Treadwell with University of Florida will talk about what soil health is, how to assess it and new tools to measure Soil Health.

Dr. Charles Mitchell with Auburn University will discuss cover crops and soil quality in the Deep South. He will share information from their historic cover crop experiment (circa 1896), the oldest cotton experiment in the world. Dr. Mitchell will discuss how information for this experiment will be put to practical use by the Auburn University Soil Testing Laboratory to measure soil quality.

Also featured will be NACAA members Wayne Flanary (Missouri) and Wade Parker (Georgia) talking about their respective projects "Effect of Aerial Seeded Cover Crops on Soil Health Degraded by Flood in a Corn and Soybean Rotation" and "The Life and Times of Cover Crops in the Southeast".

We are excited about the lineup of presenters we have made available for you in the regular Agronomy/Pest Management category this year. We have seventeen presenters covering a wide variety of topics. I would like to encourage all of you to attend and support these presenters. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the outstanding programming your colleagues are doing across the nation.

As we look ahead to the 2015 AM/PIC in South Dakota, our committee is promoting presentations on Nutrient Management and Seed Treatments. Submission of an abstract in one of these two categories will increase the chances of being accepted over a submission related to other agronomy topics. At this year's meeting we will also be deciding on the topics to feature at the AM/PIC in Arkansas in 2016. If there is a topic you would like to see included, do not hesitate to contact one of the regional vice-chairs.

I would like to thank Jeff Anderson, Paul Cerosaletti, Wade Parker and Mary Sobba for their support and all the hard work they've done getting ready for the conference.

**Agricultural
Economics and
Community
Development
Megan Bruch, Tennessee**



The Agricultural Economics and Community Development committee is pleased to help further the professional improvement of NACAA members. This year's AM/PIC will include a Super Seminar and member presentations on a variety of topics important to Extension professionals.

We are looking forward to offering another Super Seminar at this year's AM/PIC based on member needs discussed at the committee meeting held at Galaxy IV. The Super Seminar, called Issues in Agricultural Economics: Resources for Farm Business Transfer and Crop Insurance Changes in the 2014 Farm Bill, will be offered on Thursday afternoon from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The seminar will feature Mr. John Baker, attorney at law for the Beginning Farmer Center at Iowa State University, and Dr. Laurence Crane, Vice President of Program Outreach and Risk Management Education for National Crop Insurance Services. This seminar is made possible by the generous sponsorship of the National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS).

A total of 11 proposals from members were received for Agricultural Economics and Community Development Professional Improvement Council presentations. After careful consideration by the committee, eight proposals were selected to be presented at the AM/PIC. Make plans now to join us for these presentations on Tuesday afternoon. Topics will include:

- Training Agritourism Managers and Employees in Emergency Preparedness by Eric Barrett
- An Overview of Alaskan Agriculture by Stephen Brown
- Using Mini-grants for Cooling Space to Foster Economic Development by Sandra Buxton
- Tough Funding Decisions for Outcomes-Based Farm Business Programs by Mark Cannella
- Kaizen in Conduction of Annie's Project by Jenny Carleo
- Connecting Cash Flow Plans with Feed Management Practices by Robert Goodling
- Lessons Learned-The Top Ten Things to do When Developing an Urban Agriculture Project by Jacqueline Kowalski

- South Dakota Annie's Project Taking it to the Next Level by Robin Salverson

The members of the Agricultural Economics and Community Development Committee are honored to serve:

Southern Region Vice Chair and National Chair – Megan Bruch Leffew

North East Region Vice Chair – Sandra Buxton, NY

North Central Region Vice Chair – Willie Huot, ND

Western Region Vice Chair – Del Jimenez, NM

**Animal Science
Tammy Cheely, Georgia**



Committee Members:

- National Chair – Tammy Cheely
- Southern Region Vice-Chair – Brian Beer
- North Central Region Vice-Chair – Eldon Cole
- Western Region Vice-Chair – Scott Jenson
- Northeast Region Vice-Chair – Bruce Loyd

Each year the Animal Science Committee is responsible for planning and conducting the two-day Animal Science Seminar and Tour leading up to the AM/PIC. This is a tremendous professional improvement opportunity for our members and a great way to network with colleagues from across the county having similar interests. This year Auburn Associate Professor Lisa Kriese-Anderson organized the tour and served as our host.

The tour will begin in Huntsville, Alabama. It will make stops throughout the state and end with participants being dropped off in Mobile to start off the week at the AM/PIC. The tour will include stops at: Clay Kennamar Farm's stocker operation, Tennessee River Music's purebred Angus and Hereford operation, Miller Farms which includes poultry with a cow/calf operation and row crops, Wright's Dairy and retail outlet, Chilton County Research and Extension Center, a tour of historic Montgomery, the Alabama Cattlemen's Association Headquarters, Double O Farms which includes Katahdin sheep, poultry and cattle, Kaiser Cattle and Catfish and Dixon's cattle and timber. We had great interest in the tour this year with 30 participants from 17 states participating.

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.

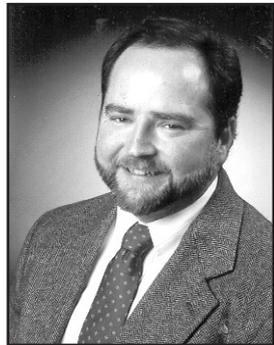
Ten of our co-workers will share the results of successful research and extension programs during the Tuesday afternoon seminars. Topics will focus on beef reproduction, nutrition and marketing as well as meat goat education and grazing schools. Plan to take advantage of this opportunity.

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 tools.

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. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chair of the Animal Science Committee. It has been a rewarding experience.

I will close by welcoming the new Chair and Regional Vice-Chairs. Ron Graber is the new Animal Science Committee Chair. Kellie Chichester will represent the Western Region as Vice-Chair and Elizabeth Claypoole will represent the Northeast Region as Vice-Chair. I know they will all do a great job!

**Natural Resources/
Aquaculture/
Seagrant
Dan Downing, Missouri**



The Natural Resources and Aquaculture committee has had a very busy, good, and successful year with lots of accomplishments including some new activities.

During the year the committee filled vacancies, solicited and screened proposals for professional development presentations, planned the first ever tour for the committee, and began working on next year's tour in South Dakota.

Steven Patrick, GA. rotated off of the committee and was replaced as the Southern Region Vice Chair by Libbie Johnson, FL. Katie Wagner, UT was approved for her second term as the Western Vice Chair, Laurel Gailor, NY, Eastern Vice Chair will assume the role of committee chair at the end of the 2014 AM/PIC, and Todd Lorenz, MO will replace Dan Downing, MO, as the North Central Region Vice Chair.

Libbie and Steven have done an outstanding job of organizing the committee's first ever tour. They have recruited additional assistance from Shelia Dunning, FL., solicited sponsorships, and have made all of the logistical arrangements for the 10 of us that will be participating in the tour. The tour will focus on experiencing first-hand the unique flora, fauna, and historic culture of the Mobile-Tensas River Delta system, including the carnivorous pitcher plant, Splinter Hill Bog, and Bottle Creek Indian mounds.

Katie Wagner is taking the lead in organizing a two day educational tour from Sioux Falls, SD to the Black Hills/ Rapid City area and return to Sioux Fall as part of the 2015 AM/PIC preliminary activities. Potential educational stops include, gold mining and reclamation efforts, The Badland, Black Hills National Forrest, National Grasslands, Mt. Rushmore, the Crazy Horse monument and more.

You don't have to be a regional Vice Chair or formal committee member to assist with the committee. Everyone interested in assisting with the committees efforts is invited to attend the Natural Resources and Aquaculture committee meeting being held during AM/PIC.

**Horticulture &
Turfgrass
Stacey Bealmear, Arizona**



Committee Members-

- Stacey Bealmear- Committee Chair
- Sara Denkler- North Central Region Vice Chair
- Annette Meyer Heisdorffer- Southern Region Vice Chair
- Ronald Patterson- Western Region Vice Chair
- William Sciarappa- North East Region Vice Chair

The Horticulture and Turfgrass committee provides members with excellent professional improvement in all areas of horticulture, from landscaping, turf, commercial production, home horticulture and Master Gardeners. We also provide networking with other horticulture agents. No other organization gives you the type of educational and networking opportunities that have direct application for cooperative extension professionals.

At this year's conference we will present a Horticulture Super Seminar on Sunday July 20th from 1-4:30pm. The main speaker is P. Alan Smith who is a gardening expert, television host, and designer. Mr. Smith will talk about Moss Mountain Farm and Home where he has test gardens for organic gardening, food production and urban homesteading. He also will discuss the inspiration behind this project, on both the green buildings and ground. Mr. Smith will share both his success and lesson learned in developing his farm. Thanks to Bonnie Plants for sponsoring Mr. Smith's presentation. After Mr. Smith's excellent presentation, Alabama Master Gardeners will give seven presentations, highlighting successful projects.

The Horticulture and Turfgrass Committee will have their committee meeting on Monday July 21st from 3-5pm. On Tuesday July 22nd from 1:30-4:00pm we will offer thirteen professional improvement presentations.

1. Gardening questions online via ask a Master Gardener

2. Organizational structure and training of new volunteers for growth and retention in a rural Master Gardener program
3. Harnessing volunteer skills to build an effective Master Gardener program
4. A Guide To Common Organic Garden Questions
5. School Garden Support: Success Stories and Lessons Learned
6. The Buckeye yard and garden line newsletter: a newsletter with multiple impacts
7. Constructing horticulture for stormwater management and costal lake protection
8. Engaging homeowner associations to reduce nutrient runoff in stormwater ponds
9. Improving Water Quality Through Fertilizer And Irrigation Education: My Brevard Yard For The Protection Of The Indian River
10. Elderberry cultivar development in Missouri
11. A Do-It Yourself High Tunnel For High Winds and Space Utility
12. Learning Farm- Teaching Agents and Producers
13. Hands-on Workshops And Demonstration Plots help Ornamental Container Growers Fight Noxious Weeds: A Growing Concern

**Sustainable
Agriculture
Steve Van Vleet,
Washington**



What an exciting time to be part of the Sustainable Agriculture Committee. Sustainable agriculture has been on a steady increase for many years and the support by USDA-SARE makes the sustainable agriculture programs run by NACAA in a collaborative partnership with USDA-SARE only that much stronger. The Sustainable Agriculture Committee not only has professional presentations on sustainable agriculture presented at the NACAA Conference but is also in charge of the SARE Fellows program. This year was exceptional for the SARE Fellows program with over 40 applicants. With this large number of quality applicants it brought some new challenges, however, those challenges were gladly accepted and adjusted for. The committee will look forward to even more applicants in 2015.

After long hours reviewing the 44 applications for the 2014 SARE Fellows program, four Fellows have been selected, one from each of the four NACAA regions. The 2014 Fellows are:

Mark Hutchinson (ME), Northeast Region

Patrick Byers (MO), Northcentral Region

Yvette Goodiel (FL), Southern Region

Susan Kerr (WA), Western Region

Each group of four Fellows participates in four sustainable agriculture tours, rotated among the four regions, over a two-year period. Travel costs to the seminar tours are covered by USDA-SARE. In addition to the educational experiences, 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 completion of the fellowship, each participant will be expected to conduct an educational or research program within their home state discussing or exploring some element of sustainable agriculture.

The exiting SARE Fellows from 2011 will present on their experiences at the SARE Fellows luncheon on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, at the NACAA Conference in Mobile, Alabama. The luncheon is sponsored by SARE and the 2014 SARE Fellows will be recognized at the luncheon.

The committee spends a great deal of time reviewing abstracts to be presented at the sustainable agriculture professional improvement seminars in Alabama. This is the sixth year that we have provided professional improvement seminars under the topic of "Sustainable Agriculture." The Sustainable Agriculture presentations will also be held the afternoon of Tuesday July 22.

It is my pleasure to serve as the National Chair for the Sustainable Agriculture Committee; much of the success of the Committee would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of its regional vice-chairs. The Sustainable Agriculture Committee work, the SARE Fellows Program and the collaborative partnerships I have established through NACAA has made a positive impact on me and my career.

The Sustainable Agriculture Committee looks forward to upcoming NACAA conferences and the continued success of the SARE Fellows Program and sustainable agriculture seminars. I would like to give a special Thank You to all the individuals involved in the guidance of the Sustainable Agriculture Committee, the support of its programs and make these programs a huge success. We look forward to continuing this outstanding program for many years to come.

Extension Development Council Chair Daniel Kluchinski, New Jersey



The Extension Development Council's (EDC) committees -- Administrative Skills, Agricultural Issues and Public Relations, Early Career Development, and Teaching and Educational Technologies -- help members improve their skills related to the art and science of extension practice. This focus on skills and methodologies to conduct extension work effectively makes NACAA unique from other subject specific professional organizations.

The Council's efforts at the 2014 AMPIC include 15 informational seminars on Tuesday morning, July 22. The presentations are part of four concurrent sessions featuring 12 hours of training. The selected papers have 37 authors, of which 24 are NACAA members. We hope you will join us!

Over the year, educational programming extended beyond the confines of the AM/PIC through one webinar. The Early Career Development Committee offered a "First Timers Webinar" in late April. The session is archived and available for those who missed the live broadcasts (see the Committee Report or NACAA website for the URL).

Our relationship as a supporter of the National Outstanding Young Farmers program continues to grow. The Agricultural Issues and Public Relations Committee has historically been a liaison with the program. Founded by Jaycees and sponsored John Deere, NACAA assists by encouraging applications of eligible farmers. To provide additional continuity, Wes Smith from Georgia has a three-year special assignment to work with the committee, seek applicants, develop press for the program, and connect with our friends at the Outstanding Young Farmer Fraternity.

I encourage NACAA members to increase your participation in the Extension Development Council's activities, and offer guidance and ideas on how we can better to serve your needs. Please share any ideas with your State Committee Chair or Regional Committee Vice-Chair, or attend out Committee Workshops on Monday afternoon, July 21 at the AM/PIC.

Finally, I offer my sincere appreciation to our committee chairs, regional vice-chairs and state chairs as well as Vice President Gregg for their individual and collective leadership and guidance during the past year. Since this is my final year of service in this capacity, I want to extend thanks to everyone who has shared his or her wisdom, advice and expertise to help me in this role. Thank you!

Ag Issues & Public Relations Scott Gabbard, Indiana



The AI&PR committee had a productive year thanks to the efforts of the committee members including Stephen Komar, New Jersey, Donald McMoran, State of Washington and Dr. Bill Burdine, Mississippi; respectively. We are fortunate to have excellent leadership from Dan Kluchinski, Rutgers University, as our Extension Development Council Chair.

The 2013 Galaxy Conference included four outstanding professional development presentations focusing on issues and challenges facing extension agricultural and how they relate to our communities now and in the future. Each program highlighted a novel way that Agricultural Extension agent provides impact within the communities they live and serve from disaster planning to retaining intellectuals within the extension agent system.

The OYF program continues to be one of the core programmatic responsibilities of the AI&PRC. This past year I had the privilege of attending the Outstanding Young Farmers Fraternity (OYF) annual meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota with Past President Paul Craig, Pennsylvania.

NACAA sent an expanded delegation this year. At the request of the OYF board, Paul Wigley, NACAA Past President returned to deliver their Keynote address. In addition, sent NACAA member Wes Smith, Georgia as well.

To further strengthen our relationship with OYF, the NACAA board has funded a special assignment liaison position between OYF and NACAA. This assignment is a three year commitment. Responsibilities for this special assignment include maintaining relational continuity between organizations and ensuring that OYF nominees get as much exposure nationally and locally as possible.

The NACAA board selected Wes Smith from Georgia to represent our organization and serve both entities in this capacity. Wes will serve the OYF by coordinating publicity for their annual conference, work with the AI&PR committee on increasing OYF nominations from county agents, and report directly to the national board. NACAA more than doubled the amount of OYF nominations from the previous year. In addition, 2 television interviews and 5 radio interviews were conducted as well as numerous newspaper and web postings.

All of us were proud to represent NACAA at this event and were extremely impressed with the outstanding candidates

from all across the United States. The OYF conference is a representative partnership that was coordinated by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce (the Jaycees), The Outstanding Young Farmers of America Fraternity and the NACAA with corporate sponsorship provided by John Deere.

Though the OYF has been in existence for over 50 years, in 2013-2014 the OYF Alumni have assumed the responsibility of the program from the Jaycees: the annual meeting and daily operations of the organization. NACAA is helping the OYF Fraternity to make this endeavor a success.

In the future, the AI&PRC will continue to support the OYF program and 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.

**Early Career Development
Nathan Winter, Minnesota**



The Early Career Development Committee has been busy during this past year thanks to the efforts of our committee members – Amber Yutzy, Pennsylvania, Laura Griffeth, Georgia, 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 educational sessions at the 2014 AM/PIC in Mobile, AL. Four abstracts were submitted for review, with three selected to present on Tuesday, July 22nd, beginning at 8:30 am. These topics are applicable to all of us, not just those in the early stages of their career.

Session A Work Life Balance for the Extension Professional
Stacey Bealmear, University of Arizona
8:30 – 9:20 a.m.

Session B Using Autonomous Groups to Deliver Quality Programs
Chris Bruynis, The Ohio State University Extension
9:30 - 10:20 a.m.

Session C How to Get Published in the Journal of the NACAA
Stephen Brown, University of Alaska Fairbanks
10:30 - 11:20 a.m.

The other main program developed by the Early Career Development Committee was the NACAA AM/PIC First Timers Webinar held on Friday, April 25, 2014 which included participation from all four Early Career Development Committee members. The purpose of this webinar was to better prepare participants for the 2014 AM/PIC by reviewing the conference program and the registration process. 24 participated during the live session, with others watching the archived presentations. Thus far 20 people have filled out the online evaluation. This archived session is still available to watch at <https://umconnect.umn.edu/p23457445/>.

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 held on Monday, July 21st at 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Your ideas will be useful for the development of goals for the 2014 – 2015 year and the 2015 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 Mobile, AL!

**Administrative Skills
Ayman Mostafa, Arizona**



Primary objective of the Administrative Skills Committee is to improve and enhance the administrative skills of all NACAA members regardless of their level of administrative responsibility. During 2014 the Administrative Skills Committee Provided NACAA members with key program focus areas include:

- Help planning a need assessment survey for Professional Development opportunities by NACAA members.
- Several high quality seminars will be presented at the NACAA AM/PIC in Mobile, AL. These will include:

- Effective county administration: the key to sustaining extension – By Walter Battle, TN
- Public board training serves critical need – By Joseph W Koenen, MO
- Getting talented helpers with a tight budget – By Ayman M. Mostafa, AZ

The Administrative Skills Committee consists of

- Ayman Mostafa, National Committee Chair and Western Region Committee Vice-Chair;
- Bruce Barbour, Northeast Region Committee Vice Chair;
- Paul Westfall, Southern Region Committee Vice Chair;
- Chris Bruynis, North Central Region Committee Vice-Chair.

Teaching & Educational Technologies
Mark Blevins, North Carolina



Your Teaching and Educational Technologies committee is excited about the opportunities you have at the National AM/PIC and throughout the year to learn about emerging and established technologies that can make us all more efficient and effective as educators.

In Mobile, Alabama on Tuesday morning, the 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 slots are split so that two speakers will share their expertise during each session so you can double what you learn. The early pair is from Pennsylvania and will share Survey Monkey techniques for success as well as mobile apps for dairy profitability.

Two colleagues from New Jersey will then bring light to bridging the field and classroom with online learning and non-linear presentation software to put more pop in a presentation than PowerPoint can provide.

The last session discusses client outreach with your own YouTube channel and blending online classes with hands on approaches for volunteer training - specific to Extension Master Gardeners, but with broad appeal to just about any training.

As a follow up to the Galaxy conference, there were several second Tuesday monthly webinars to discuss a timely topic.

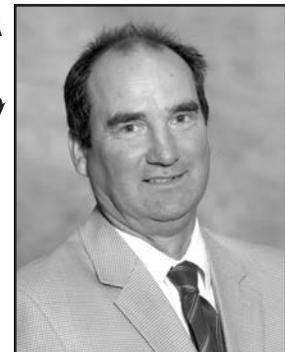
These are available online at the Teaching and Educational Technology Google+ page; just search for Using Technology in Extension on Google Plus.

More webinars are to come, so check our website above as well as learn.extension.org where we post webinars of wide significance or interest. Additionally, look for a technology survey from the Educational Development Council to test the waters on several topics that will help guide us in plans for the coming years. We will use this data to tailor our AM/PIC presentations and future super seminars.

Finally, consider getting actively involved in this committee or another one. We can always use another perspective and you'll know what you're getting into when you apply to be a national vice chair down the road. These are important positions for the good of our organization, so please join my colleagues currently serving as regional vice chairs as we work to bring new ideas, skills and resources to fellow members at the annual meeting and throughout the year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as a committee chair and thanks for your service to the community around you and for being engaged in this great Association.

Program Recognition Council Chair
Richard Brzozowski, Maine



The Program Recognition Council (PRC) is one of the three Councils that make up the committee structure of NACAA. The Council consists of seven committees: Communications; Search for Excellence; 4-H and Youth; Professional Excellence; Public Relations; Recognition & Awards; and Scholarship. The purpose of this council is to provide a vehicle to recognize the professionalism, performance and programs of NACAA members.

These committees help the NACAA recognize the outstanding work of our members in their respective states, regions and counties. Each year the committees review numerous entries to determine state, regional and national winners. Committees have worked to make sure that NACAA members are recognized for their outstanding efforts.

The activities of this council focus on special personal recognition, presentations, programs, posters and other forms of recognition at the AM/PIC. In July, there will be a wide variety of presentations in Mobile, Alabama. I encourage you to attend sessions with the goals of networking as well as identifying programs and methods for use or adaptation.

**Communications
Sherri Sanders, Arkansas**

The communications committee is pleased to report that Bayer has continued sponsorship of the Communications Awards Program for 2014. Our committee has worked diligently to expedite the judging of all entries in a timely fashion.



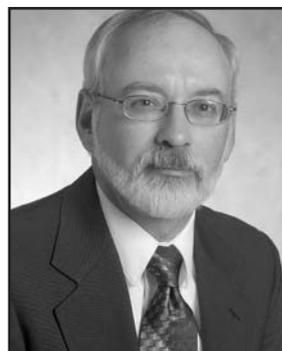
We continue to see large numbers of entries in the fourteen communication award categories. The caliber of award entries is outstanding. Our members are producing excellent materials and are to be commended for the quality of their submissions. As a whole, the competition was very close and the quality of submitted items was top-notch.

- *Audio recording had 30 entries
- *Published Photo and Caption had 33 entries
- *Computer Generated Graphics had 44 entries
- *Promotional Piece had 118 entries
- *Personal Column had 72 entries
- *Feature Story had 48 entries
- *Individual Newsletter had 45 entries
- *Team Newsletter had 39 entries
- *Video Recordings had 50 entries
- *Fact Sheet had 54 entries
- *Publication had 57 entries
- *Web Site had 33 entries
- *Learning Module had 15 entries
- *Bound Book had 11 entries

I am appreciative to the regional vice-chairs for the communication committee. The regional vice-chairs are: North Central Region Chair David Marrison (Ohio), North East Region Chair Lee Stivers (Pennsylvania), Southern Region Chair Tracy Robertson (Mississippi), and Western Region Chair Kurt Jones (Colorado). I would like to thank Henry Dorough, Cynthia Gregg, Richard Brzozowski and Scott Hawbaker for their assistance throughout the year with questions and concerns.

**Search for
Excellence
Stanley A. McKee,
Pennsylvania**

The current Search for Excellence (SFE) committee is comprised of four regional vice chairs and myself. The regional vice chairs include Amy-Lynn Albertson from North Carolina,



Wendy Becker from Montana, Travis Harper from Missouri, and Greg Strait from Pennsylvania.

The committee held an organizational meeting by 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. During the conference call we also confirmed the division of responsibilities regarding the SFE categories that each would lead. They were as follows:

- Landscape Horticulture – Amy-Lynn Albertson
- Livestock Production – Wendy Becker
- Crop Production – Travis Harper
- Young, Beginning, or Small Farmer – Greg Strait
- Remote Sensing & Precision Ag – Travis Harper
- Farm & Ranch Financial Management – Greg Strait
- Farm Health and Safety – Wendy Becker
- Sustainable Agriculture – Stan McKee

The committee held another conference call in March to check in as a team. Each regional vice chair was responsible for organizing a team of judges for each respective category, judging the entries, and reporting the results to me by May 1, 2014. All the entries forwarded by the states were judged before the end of April, and National winners were notified by very early May. The number of completed entries per category was as follows:

- Landscape Horticulture – 9 completed entries
- Livestock Production – 9 completed entries
- Crop Production – 15 completed entries
- Young, Beginning, or Small Farmer/Rancher – 8 completed entries
- Remote Sensing & Precision Ag – 1 completed entry
- Farm and Ranch Financial Management – 6 completed entries
- Farm Health and Safety – 5 completed entries
- Sustainable Agriculture – 8 completed entries

The number of entries received was consistent with the number of entries submitted in the last few years, but seems to be lower than what it should be. SFE entries are not difficult to prepare and submit, and the program provides a great opportunity for individual and team recognition. The committee will continue to promote the SFE awards program, and encourage more applications next year.

This year the Remote Sensing and Precision Ag category was in need of sponsorship, and efforts to secure sponsorship were unsuccessful. Without sponsorship we are unable to provide a luncheon for the recognition of winners, and the award is without a monetary component. Historically this category has had low numbers of applications, and going forward consideration will need to be given to the question of continuing the category.

Thanks:

Thanks to each state chair for their efforts in promoting SFE to their membership and selecting state winners.

Thanks to each regional vice chair for all their efforts to facilitate the judging of the entries and the other associated tasks of the committee.

Thanks to Program Recognition Council Chair Richard Brzozowski for his assistance and support during the year. Thanks to NACAA Executive Director, Scott Hawbaker for his support and assistance to me when questions or situations with entries arose. He was always prompt and provided exceptional follow-up.

4-H & Youth Chris Penrose, Ohio



Almost all agricultural agents conduct some 4-H and youth programs and many of our members have a significant appointment in 4-H. 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 16 entries for awards this year, twice as many as in 2012. One task the committee worked on the past year was to increase awareness that this is not a 4-H award only, but also includes other youth related programs.

The committee was able provide seven awards this year. We had three Regional Finalists, three National Finalists and our National winner is Cyndi. K. Lauderdale, from North Carolina. Cyndi will present her winning program "Green Adventures" at the awards luncheon on Monday, July 21. All seven of the award winners will attend the awards luncheon to be recognized.

Another charge of the committee was initiated five years ago when the committee proposed, and the board approved, the establishment of the Excellence in 4-H Program Workshop. Due to the structure of the Galaxy Conference last year there was not an Excellence in 4-H Programming Workshop as members had the ability to submit 4-H and Youth presentations as part of Galaxy. This year we have nine presenting with all four regions represented for the Excellence in 4-H Program workshop. Members are encouraged to attend the workshop on Tuesday, July 22, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Finally, I want to thank the regional directors for their help during the past year: Randy Saner, from Nebraska; Craig Williams, from Pennsylvania; Aubie Keese, from Oklahoma; and Allan Sulser, from Utah.

Professional Excellence Keith Mickler, Georgia



2014 Report to Membership
- Professional Excellence
Committee

The Professional Excellence Committee is responsible for organizing and conducting the poster session at the AM/PIC.

All posters abstracts were submitted on-line and reviewed by state chairs, regional vice-chairs and national chair. Lead authors were notified in mid-April that their abstracts were accepted. All posters will be peer reviewed at the AM/PIC by a panel of judges. Winners will be formally announced at the awards breakfast.

NACAA endorses the poster session as a very important method of presenting Extension programming and applied research results to members. Syngenta Crop Protection will be the sponsor for the 2014 Poster Session Awards Breakfast. This year 156 abstracts were accepted for the AM/PIC in Mobile, Alabama. There were 42 entries in the Applied Research and 114 entries in Extension Education. A summary of posters and authors will be available during the poster session allowing one to easily locate posters of potential interest.

Posters must be in place no later than 1:00 p.m. Sunday, July 20th through Tuesday, July 22, 2014. "Meet the Authors Poster Session" will be from 11:45 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. Monday, July 21, 2014.

Judging criteria is posted on the NACAA website for participants to consider prior to preparing their abstracts and posters. Poster scores will be made available to all participants at the "Poster Session Awards Breakfast"

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 10 posters from each category will then be evaluated to select the poster award recipients in each category! Awards will be presented at the AM/PIC Poster Session Awards Breakfast to be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 starting at 6:30 a.m.

The top three posters in each category will receive a cash award, plaque and ribbon, regional winners will receive a certificate and ribbon and the top 10 will receive finalist recognition ribbons.

We wish to thank all members who have agreed to volunteer their time to judge posters at the 99th NACAA Annual

Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. Without your help, we cannot accomplish the judging of poster. I wish to thank our state and regional vice-chair for the fantastic job they have done with making the poster session successful. Your current regional vice-chairs are Mylen Bohle, Western Region; Brian Cresswell, Southern Region; Mike Haberland, North East Region; and Eric Barrett, North Central Region. Your Professional Excellence committee has been responsible for poster session organization, securing judges, and recognizing all the winners. It takes a lot of dedication and hard work to make this happen and without the vice-chairs the poster session could not and would not be possible.

**Public Relations
Paula Burke, Georgia**



The Public Relations committee is responsible for conducting the Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Awards (A4) 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 13 entries this year, which was down a little from 18 in 2013. 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 2014.

Congratulations to Nancy Thelen from Michigan, who is the A4 program National winner. Nancy will present her winning entry during the A4 awards recognition luncheon on the Breakfast on the Farm event conducted in five counties in Michigan. Congratulations also go national finalists Heather Weeks from Pennsylvania, Crystal Snodgrass, Christa Kirby, Samantha Kennedy, Diana Smith from Florida, and Chad Reid from Utah. Regional winners are Sherri Sanders from Arkansas and Roy Thagard from North Carolina.

A sincere thank you to Brent Allen of Georgia; Raquel Dugan-Dibble of North Dakota; Julie Smith of Vermont; and Shannon Williams of Idaho for serving as National Vice Chairs of the Public Relations Committee. Many thanks to also to state chairs for their commitment to the committee.

The Public Relations committee is looking forward to having entries from all of the four regions in 2015. The Public Relations committee challenges each of you to submit an entry in the NACAA awards programs especially A4.

**Recognition and Awards
Chester "Chet" Hill,
North Dakota**



Wow! This is one committee that keeps a group busy, but at the same time, very rewarding experience from getting to know so many excellent extension agents in our association. First, let me thank the NACAA Board and membership for giving me the honor, confidence, and privilege of serving as the National Chair of the Recognition and Awards Committee. I am serving the remaining year of Ms. Cynthia Gregg's term who was elected last fall in Pittsburgh as Vice-President of our association. I would like to say "thank you" to the members of the Recognition and Awards Committee: Stephan Hadcock, Northeast Region Vice-Chair; Kevin Lyons, Keith Perkins, Southern Region Vice-Chair; Kurt Nolte, Western Region Vice-Chair; and all of the State Chairs. Everyone did an amazing job this year! As one can see, I have extra duties as the North Central Region Vice-Chair as well. Also, I want to express my gratitude to all of the State Chairs and Presidents, for their hard work in selecting the Achievement Awards, Distinguished Service Awards, and the Hall of Fame Awards winners and maintaining a strong foundation for these prestigious awards for NACAA.

On Tuesday morning, sixty-three Achievement Award recipients will receive their awards at a breakfast awards' program in their honor. This is the fortieth year that NACAA has presented this award with this year's recipients joining 1,923 fellow Achievement Awards winners. This year's winners were based on two percent of the NACAA membership of their respective states as of February 15th. The 2014 Achievement Award winners have developed quality programming, gained respect from their co-workers and have accomplished this in less than ten years. A special thank you goes to NACAA President Henry Dorough and American Income Life's Bill Viar, as they assist with the awards presentation on Tuesday morning. Regional Directors and State Chairs are welcomed to attendance as well.

The committee is again responsible for awarding of the Hall of Fame Awards which is the ninth year for this prestigious award. The outstanding Hall of Fame winners will receive their awards on Thursday evening during the Annual Banquet. These recipients have received many awards for achievements during their careers and beyond, as they assisted their clientele, along with fellow agents and specialists of the Extension Programs in their respective states and regions of the country. These individuals have provided leadership for professional organizations, churches, and humanitarian service organizations. This year's inductees make one proud to be a member of NACAA.

**Scholarship
Dwane Miller, Pennsylvania**



I would like to say thank you to the members of the Scholarship Committee for their hard work during the past year: Susan Boser, Northeast Region Vice-Chair; Wayne Flanary, North Central Region Vice-Chair; Linden Greenhalgh, West Region Vice-Chair; Donna Hamlin Beliech, Southern Region Vice-Chair and all of the state chairs.

The Scholarship Committee would like to recognize the following members for reaching designated giving levels to the NACAA Scholarship Fund:

\$100-\$249

Craig Askim, Basil R. Bactawar, Susan Boser, Timothy Elkner, Laurel R. Gailor, Michael Goodchild, Russ Higgins, Eugene McAvoy, David Nicolai, David Stender, Lee Stivers and Nathan Winter

\$250-\$499

Robert C. Goodling, Jr., Paul C. Hay, Michael Heimer and Audrey Reith

\$500-\$999

Laura Watts

The scholarship committee has been working with state scholarship chairs to encourage donations to the scholarship fund. NACAA members and friends have donated \$6,754.50 to the scholarship fund from July 1, 2013 through May 31, 2014. Thank you all for your contributions! Most contributions are made through the live and silent auction as well as the cash raffle held as part of the AM/PIC. Please consider bringing an item or two for this year's auction, and taking a chance to win some cash!

The committee would like to remind the membership of the opportunity to submit applications for scholarships. These scholarships can be used for members' professional improvement, which can include funding advanced degrees, tours, seminars, research, or other specialized training.

- All applications are now electronically completed on the NACAA website. Deadline for applications is June 1st.
- In order to be eligible for up to \$1,000 in awards, members need to be vested at \$40 in the scholarship fund. Members need to be vested at \$100 in the scholarship fund to be eligible for up to \$2,000 in awards. This contribution must be made before

This year is the seventy-seventh year to present the Distinguished Service Award during the Annual Banquet Thursday evening. The Distinguished Service Award will be presented to fifty-eight 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 in 2014 and join 7,093 past recipients. The award winners 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 Recognition and Awards committee wishes to express a special thank you to the sponsors of the awards that are given during 99th NACAA Annual Conference. Thank you to Deere and Company for their sponsorship of the Hall of Fame award for the ninth year. We want to express our appreciation for the continued support of the Achievement Awards Breakfast by American Income Life Insurance Company for forty-one years, and they have provided sponsorship for forty-six years overall to NACAA programs. Altria Client Services is the sponsor of the Awards Booklet, and the committee wishes to say thank you for your continued support of the Annual Banquet.

I would be remised if I also did not thank the NACAA Board, President Henry Dorough, Vice-President Cynthia Gregg, and the Regional Directors along with Program Recognition Council Chair Richard Brzozowski and Executive Director Scott Hawbaker for their assistance to the Recognition and Awards Committee this year. Alan Galloway's work on getting the plaques and certificate frames completed is appreciated by the Recognition and Awards Committee.

To the NACAA members, the Recognition and Awards Committee National Chair, Regional Vice-Chairs, and State Chairs would like to encourage members to continue providing recognition for the outstanding extension educators in your respective states. State associations have members who can be nominated for the Achievement Award and Distinguished Service Award. There are also members both active and retired who would be outstanding nominees for the Hall of Fame. Please take the time to nominate someone deserving of these awards.

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, members make a real difference in their communities, counties, parishes, areas, states, and regions.

the end of the previous year's AM/PIC to qualify (ex: contribution must be received by the end of the 2014 AM/PIC to apply for an award in 2015).

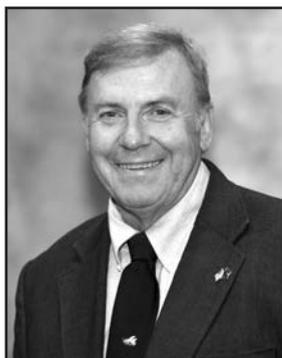
- Other criteria can be found at the NACAA website under the "Awards" tab.

Vestment in the scholarship fund can occur in a variety of different ways. Here are some possibilities:

- Bring items to the silent and live auction at the AM/PIC. You receive credit for the amount the item sells for.
- Purchase tickets (\$20 each) for the cash raffle, held at the AM/PIC. Non-winning tickets receive credit for a donation to the scholarship fund.
- Some states have auctions or other fundraisers in which they designate proceeds towards the NACAA Scholarship Fund.
- Direct donations by individuals to the fund.

All applications that were submitted by the June 1st deadline will be reviewed by the scholarship committee at the 2014 AM/PIC in Mobile.

**Life Member
J. Lee Miller,
Pennsylvania**



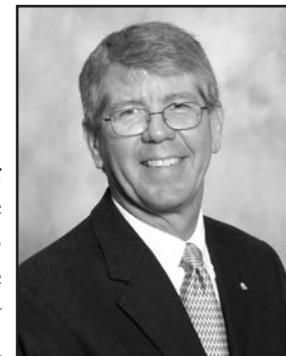
I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with the regional Life Member chairs Tom Benton, Dave McManus, Warren Sifferath, and Nate Herenden to update the Life member committee database.

We continue to seek life member chairs in each state to keep the life members connected. Each year we conduct a Life member memorial service to honor those NACAA life members who have gone before us during the life member's business meeting. We will do this at the AM/PIC Conference in Mobile, AL. Tom Benton will be the incoming Life Members national chair. We are still seeking a Life Members program sponsor. Several companies have expressed some interest but there is a great opportunity for some company to interact with our membership and have a part of the program and a site in the trade show. If you know of a potential sponsor please let us know. Please make an effort to keep life members informed of current agent activities for they are retired but not out energy and often willing to help and be supportive.

I trust that you have made plans to attend the 2014 NACAA meetings in Mobile, AL. We are looking forward to a full schedule of life member activities there. The Alabama Agents and especially the Life Member committee have

done an outstanding job of planning tours and activities and welcoming life members. I am looking forward to the southern hospitality that they plan to extend. You will enjoy the many interesting sites of this historic city and the uniqueness of the area. I want to thank the NACAA board for the support for the life member program. We appreciate the concern that you have for us and we are ready to assist you and the NACAA organization in any way that we can.

**Journal of the
NACAA
Stephen Brown, Alaska**



Thirty-three articles from our members were published in the June 2013 and December 2013 issues of the Journal of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. The journal has an acceptance rate of about 50%. The journal is now fully searchable.

The journal publishes on June 1st and December 1st. Submissions must be electronically submitted by March 15th for the summer publication and September 15th for the winter edition. This means it is possible for authors to have as little as a 2 1/2 month turnaround from submission to publication! More information can be found at: naca.com/journal.

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.

Thanks to 2013/2014 Journal of the NACAA National Peer Reviewers:

- Nicole Anderson – Oregon
- Cesar Asuaje – Florida
- William Bamka – New Jersey
- Derek Barber – Florida
- Pamela Bennett – Ohio
- Jerry Bertoldo – New York
- Carol Bishop – Nevada
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 John Wilson – Nebraska
 Gary Zoubek - Nebraska

**Extension Journal
 Inc.
 Keith Mickler, Georgia**

Countless appreciation goes to NACAA officers and board for approving my continued endeavor of representing our association on the Extension Journal Inc. board. Currently I serve as President-Elect for the Extension Journal Inc.



The Extension Journal Inc. offers two products to Extension, *The Journal of Extension (JOE)* and the National Job Bank.

JOE

JOE is a scholarly, double-blind, peer-reviewed online journal representing the best of Cooperative Extension from across the nation.

All *JOE* submissions are 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 a monumental achievement.

During 2013 *JOE* celebrated its 50th anniversary. The final observance was the bestowal of the 2013 Outstanding Feature Article Award. The winning article is “[A National Perspective on the Current Evaluation Activities in Extension](#),” by Alexa J. Lamm, Glenn D. Israel, and David Diehl with The University of Florida. For more about the article, visit <http://www.joe.org/journal-oa.php>.

In 2013 there were 301 submissions: 15% were rejected; 37% returned for revision; 48% accepted for review or publication. Currently there are 102 accepted submissions waiting to be published. *JOE* is published six times per year.

JOE currently has a 5-year publishing average of 26.6%. For more, see February 2104 Editor’s Page, “*JOE* by the Numbers 2013” <http://www.joe.org/joe/2014february/ed1.php>.

If you are interested in being a reviewer and have **breadth** across several areas as well as **depth** of expertise, please visit *JOE* FAQ #10 <http://www.joe.org/about-faqs.php#Q10>.

National Job Bank

Extension Journal Inc.’s other product is the National Job Bank <http://jobs.joe.org/>. The National Job Bank provides access to a broad range of faculty positions in teaching, research, extension and outreach along with other professional positions involving education, research and/or outreach missions.

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 the *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 dreaming of.

**Executive Director
Scott Hawbaker, Illinois**



It's been my pleasure to serve as NACAA's Executive Director for the past 15 years. I've definitely discovered of this period, that Extension Agents/Specialists are wonderful individuals to work with. The leadership from each and every level of this organization (State to National) takes pride in NACAA which makes my job easier knowing that when someone takes a leadership role, the job will get done.

A special gratitude goes out to the current board of directors for the hard work and decisions that are made during every conference call and face to face meeting. Making tough decisions have seem to come naturally to you all, and each of those decisions has helped strengthen NACAA. Because of your leadership, NACAA I believe will succeed another 100+ years.

During this past year, I've continued to "hold down the fort" (National Office) in Maroa, Illinois. I never really know what will transpire each day. It may be answering several phone calls from individuals wanting to discuss upcoming Annual Meeting events, it may be responding to 50+ emails/day on association related business, or it may be the opportunity to talk with a potential agribusiness about how to partner with NACAA. Every day is unique, which is makes my job one that I do honestly look forward to each day.

As the 2014 AM/PIC in Mobile, Alabama rapidly approaches, I also want to thank all of the Alabama members I've come to know and work with closely over the last year. It takes strong leadership from the State level to make an AM/PIC happen, and the Alabama group has proven leaders that I've thoroughly enjoyed working with.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Mobile and hope that this years Professional Improvement Conference will be one that you will take full advantage of as a member of NACAA.



Thank You - NACAA Sponsors/Donors



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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

2014
Mobile, Alabama.....July 20-24

2016
Little Rock, Arkansas....July 24-28

2015
Sioux Falls, South Dakota.....July 12-16

2017
Salt Lake City, Utah....July 9-13



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