

# The County Agent

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Volume LXXVII No. 2 June 2016

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

## President's Corner

### Arkansas 2016 "It's A Natural!"

It will not be long until we are together in Little Rock for the 101<sup>st</sup> NACAA AM/PIC. It's going to be an amazing, education filled conference. I am certain all of us will have choices to make on which programs we can attend. We do so many things it is hard to sort through the vast educational topics and programs. Unfortunately, there will still be overlap on many days. There will be opportunities to present to coworkers on a myriad of topics, visit with coworkers during the poster sessions, congratulate coworkers on awards, attend the hallway seminars and sharing sessions, and network on upcoming programming efforts across counties, states and even regions.

I am looking forward to seeing each and everyone one of you in Little Rock. There will be so much to learn and experience.

You will have an opportunity to learn about how you have made a difference to someone. You may not know it yet but all of you have in some way made a significant difference to someone you have worked with in your career. It has been important to me to learn about the myriad of ways all of you not only help your clientele but your community as well. I am humbled and honored when I see producers making solid business decisions based on your assistance and educational programs, hearing about how your mentorship opened career paths for youth, and how we educate not only each other but others as well during our NACAA AM/PIC.

I want each of you to know I value your work, your community awareness, leadership and friendship. You help make NACAA the best. I am honored to know and work with each of you.

Please know that with all that has gone on this year, my email, phone and other ways to communicate have been open. I had a colleague from another state call me

one day and ask a question, they told me they had never called an NACAA President before, and I told them I was happy they called me. I truly was glad they called me. Each of you are part of the reason I am here and I thank you. My door, phone, and email are always open.



Cynthia Gregg  
NACAA President

I am excited about the NACAA AM/PIC in Little Rock. For those of you who cannot join us for whatever reason, we will miss you and hope that you will be able to attend another upcoming AM/PIC. I wish all of you good health, happiness and safe travels until we see each other in Arkansas and beyond.

Thank you for all you do! You are the BEST!



## INSIDE THIS EDITION

2016 Sponsors/Donors.....	2
AM/PIC Seminars.....	3
PILD Recap.....	4
Report to the Membership.....	5-28
LifeMember Corner.....	29-30
Bring your Glasses.....	IBC



# Thank You - NACAA Sponsors/Donors



OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP.™  
SINCE 1918



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**  
University of Arkansas System

## The County Agent

The **County Agent** is a publication of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents  
President: Cynthia Gregg

Editor: Scott Hawbaker -  
Greendell Publishing  
6584 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756  
(217) 794-3700 • Fax (217) 794-5901  
e-mail: [nacaemail@aol.com](mailto:nacaemail@aol.com)  
<http://naca.com>

**Volume LXXVII No. 2** June, 2016 **The County Agent** (ISSN 0164-3932) (USPS 0134-900) is published four times per year (Dec., April, June, Oct.) by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, 6584 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756. Subscription price is \$10.00 annually and is included as part of an active member's dues. Periodical Class postage paid at Jefferson City, MO.  
*Submit articles and photos to Greendell Publishing at the address listed above.*

**POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:**  
**The County Agent** - National Association of County Agricultural Agents  
Editor: Scott Hawbaker  
6584 W. Duroc Rd., Maroa, IL 61756

# Agroforestry: Achieving multiple benefits in environmental, ecological, and socio- economic stewardship

*Agroforestry session at annual Conference of the  
National Association of County Agricultural Agents  
Tuesday, July 26th, 2016  
Little Rock, AR*

Session description: This session provides agricultural agents, natural resource professionals, and outreach specialists with an introduction to temperate agroforestry and its main practices; insight into agroforestry's multiple ecological and environmental benefits; and resources for further information and training.

Session details:  
*1:30-4:00 pm*

1:30 Temperate agroforestry practices: successful strategies to help farmers. Gregory Ormsby Mori (Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri)

1:55 Productive farming resilient to a changing climate. Richard Straight (National Center for Agroforestry)

2:20 Promoting pollinators with perennial practices. Gary Bentrup (National Center for Agroforestry)

2:45 Silvopasture: opportunities for agroforestry transitions. Gene Garrett (Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri)

3:10 How I improved my grazing operation and wildlife habitat through silvopasture: lessons in combining timber and livestock agriculture; Terry Brown (farmer, Fulton County, AR)

3:35 Opportunities for education & training for farmers, agricultural agents, and military Veterans; Gregory Ormsby Mori (Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri)

## Agricultural Issues and Public Relations Super Seminar Wednesday - July 27, 2016 Little Rock, Arkansas 1:30 – 3:30 pm

### The Produce Safety Tool Box: Developing Your Statewide FSMA Produce Safety Action Plan

The Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule was published on November 27, 2015 and will go into effect in less than two years for the largest farm operations. The implementation of this federal rule will impact fresh produce growers nationwide, with the FDA relying on State Departments of Agriculture for inspection and Extension for education. Fresh produce operations whose food sales are over \$25,000 may need to comply with this rule. Growers who need to comply with this regulation will need to attend required training, comply with produce safety standards and document certain farm activities. Growers may be exempt from the FSMA Produce Rule, but could be impacted by food safety requirements from produce buyers as a result of FSMA. This session will help Extension agents develop a tool box to better assist their fresh produce growers in understanding and complying with the FSMA Produce Rule. Produce Safety Alliance food safety experts will discuss conducting needs and capabilities assessments, identifying produce growers who could be impacted by FSMA, identifying key educational needs of clientele, development of a diverse statewide produce safety team, creation of training programs for both growers and trainers, identifying funding sources, linking into regional and national produce safety networks, and sustaining outreach for the long-term.



*Photo by Meredith Melendez*

# Why All Extension Educators Should Consider Attending the PILD Conference

By: Jarrod Miller,  
University of Maryland  
Extension, Somerset  
County



Having only worked for the University of Maryland Extension since 2014, I still find myself to be a “first timer” at many events and conferences. This past April I was able to attend my first Public Issues and Leadership Development (PILD) conference in Crystal City, VA. I found the experience to be tremendously important to my growth in Extension. As I have learned to be an Extension Educator, some have come naturally, while some required a few stumbling blocks. Extension is more than simply teaching skills and knowledge, there is also much to be learned about our shared national, state and county histories.

For a new agricultural educator, the NACAA conference has been an excellent source of ideas for programming, connections and presentations. It has been essential in understanding how each state and region may approach and solve various issues. As an extension conference though, PILD provided me with a much different experience.

The mission of PILD is to help educators develop leadership and advocacy skills for public issues. We often work on our county and regional levels, and may forget the importance of Federal government in Extension’s mission. Rather than just discussing Smith-Lever with your county commissioner, PILD provides the opportunity to stand in the halls that helped create Extension, and continues to support our outreach.

There are many reasons to consider attending PILD, including the visit to Washington itself. Although I grew up in the Washington, D.C. area, many of you may have the opportunity to make your first visit. DC can easily be explored by metro, with the choice of many great restaurants, museums or landmarks in the Capital. I also attended both my NACAA and states night dinners, which were invaluable. Since PILD is a smaller conference, the dinners with colleagues are more personal, and I was able to discuss Extension with fellow agents from Ohio, Mississippi and Kansas. This alone was worth the trip

to PILD. In addition, the state’s night dinner provided a connection with educators statewide, teaching me both county and program differences.

The conference itself is not too long, most of the talks and presentations are packed into two days, with a third day for visiting the Hill. Through the two day sessions I heard from other educators on retaining county funding and building support for Extension. As a NACAA member we were all able to meet with NIFA representatives who provided an overview of what types of research is funded and how Extension fits that equation. We certainly have many opportunities to be the “outreach” portion of NIFA funded research.

Much of the program also prepares you for the main objective of PILD, crafting your message for the Hill. It was here that my knowledge of Extension, and how we must not remain “the best kept secret”, was built. We cannot expect our great work to make it to Federal legislators if we don’t help carry it ourselves.

Those two days all lead up to the most difficult, yet rewarding experience at PILD; speaking with your state representatives. If you chose to, the visit to the Hill will teach a lot about how to directly interact our government. Prior to visiting, and possibly weeks in advance, you must contact your representative to schedule a meeting (most likely with a staffer). This broke a mental wall in my mind, helping me realize the ease of contacting your representatives.

On that third day, exiting the metro and making your way to the Congressional office buildings should give you an invigorated feeling, especially when you see the Capital building in the background. With many staffers and citizens beside you, the ease of security reminds you of the openness Americans share with their government. Sitting in the cafeteria, you will witness a plethora of agencies and lobbyists from across the spectra, also vying for a Federal ear. Lining the halls of the office buildings are the flags of all states, with the plaques of each representative welcoming you inside. Although the office buildings are a bit of a labyrinth, you will finally find yourself sitting in your representative’s office and deliver the Extension message. At this point you will quickly realize how practiced your message and ad-libbing are both equally important. Finally, when you step out of the building and back into the sunlight, you should feel accomplished, even though the task may have only take 15 minutes. It is a feeling that I recommend all Extension Educators pursue, at least once in their career.

# 2015-2016 NACAA *Report to the Membership*

## **President**

Cynthia L. Gregg  
Virginia



What an amazing year. This year has been filled with so much excitement, enthusiasm, joy, wonder and other various emotions. The year began with you allowing me to call my mother for her to listen to my swearing in as your 101<sup>st</sup> National Association of County Agricultural Agents President. Little did I know what the next few months would bring. So this memory means so much more to me now. Thank you.

This year NACAA has taken strides to enhance our relationships with State Association, Administrators, and the Joint Council of Extension Professionals. It has been an honor to represent you at several functions. It has been a priority for me to insure that we get the message to our Administrators and others about the AMAZING educational programs you conduct in your home counties and states, along with webinars, and at the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. I am always impressed by the depth and breadth all of you go to in order to educate and help farmers, ranchers, families, co-workers, and each other. I have learned and admired the types of efforts you do every day to educate – whether it be via computer, social media, news articles, publications, posters, field days, and more. The cutting edge equipment – large, medium, and small – you use every day helps drive home your educational programming. The changes you make humble me. So many say, we never change – well we do, have and will continue to do so.

I have been proud to head up the NACAA Board Team this year. I truly feel we have become a team that has strived to put the NACAA Members needs in focus. It has been a pleasure to work with them this year. I would be remised if I did not acknowledge the abilities, knowledge, and organizational skill of Executive Director Scott Hawbaker. He is the keeper of all things NACAA. He can answer any question you may have and I feel confident he has experienced laughter and wonder with some of my questions this year. We could not do all we do without him.

If I may I would now like to share with you some of the items that may interest to you. This year I attended several functions on your behalf.

I was able to attend the Western Region NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference this year in Alaska. I was impressed by the Professional Improvement and Professional Development. The posters were well done, the presentations were very informative, and the opportunity to experience Alaskan Agriculture was amazing. The Conference was educational filled on many levels. The work of our Alaskan Co-workers is impressive. They are helping educate their clientele how the many ways to feed, cloth, and shelter themselves economically and efficiently. Where else can you learn about canning walrus meat, qiviut clothing, how to build a home, proper nutrition of reindeer and moose, proper glacier rescue techniques, from Alaska Cooperative Extension of course.

I have had the chance to represent you as part of the NACAA Representation to the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Board. This past year, the JCEP Leadership Conference in Las Vegas was an outstanding opportunity for our members to present on a myriad of leadership topics in addition to leadership development and fellowship among co-workers. The JCEP Public Issues Leadership Development Forum in Alexandria this year was filled with networking with USDA Co-workers, along with learning about how to engage our Senators and Congressmen and fellowship with co-workers from across the country. JCEP being the umbrella organization for our sister Extension Associations, it is imperative that we of NACAA have a seat at the table and work hard to insure our members are represented to the best of our ability as Board Members. I will serve as President of JCEP next year. I will strive to represent you to the best of my ability, will keep your best interests in the forefront, and insure your voices are heard at Board Meetings and other JCEP events.

I have had the privilege to work with the Agricultural Extension Agents in Arkansas this year and for the past two years. I have learned so much about the State of Arkansas, it's agriculture, natural resources, and culture. I am truly impressed by our co-workers and their efforts on our behalf in planning the 2016 NACAA AM/PIC. It will be a truly education filled conference, along with

the opportunity to experience first-hand the knowledge, hospitality, and enthusiasm of our Arkansas Co-workers. This will be a meeting like no other, you will be able to experience a varied array of educational programs in all subject areas: Technology, Early Career Development, Animal Science, Natural Resources, and Horticulture just to name a few. Where else but Arkansas can you experience diverse water quality education, taste varieties of rice, learn about horticulture advances, history, culture, see Sustainable Agriculture in action, learn how Agriculture Agents can help their clientele, and did I mention minerals- even diamonds. So the opportunity to learn about all of this and more in the great State of Arkansas is ours in 2016. I know the 2016 NACAA AM/PIC will be a time of learning, fellowship, recharge, and sharing the best Agricultural Extension Agents and Specialists have to offer from Arkansas and across the country.

The NACAA Committees are putting their best forward for your educational interests and needs. The workshops, trade talks, peer presentations, and posters are not to be missed. There will be something for everyone to take home and utilize in programming efforts. Awards will be presented from Achievement Awards Winners to Distinguished Service Awards, Hall of Fame to Search for Excellence, Scholarships to Communications. The work that the Committees will bring forth is top notch, educational filled ideas for yourself and to share with others. Together we make each other better educators, I know you will take advantage of the numerous impressive educational opportunities.

Let me say a strong heart filled thank you to each and every one of you. I am proud to be associated with the noble Extension Agriculture Professionals like you. You inspire me to do better each day. I have tried hard to keep your interests in the forefront of all I have done this year. I have enjoyed the email, phone calls, and personal visits from everyone this year. I may not have always been perfect in everything but I can assure you I am proud of all we accomplish as individuals and as teams across the country. You are the envy of the world in the manners to which you do your jobs every day. I am proud to work beside each of you. A few special thank you to the Agriculture Agents Association Members in Arkansas, I appreciate all your efforts on behalf of NACAA, you all are an amazing team and do fantastic jobs in all you strive to do. To my Virginia Colleagues, I will and can never thank you enough for everything you have done for me as well. I am honored to work with each of you. I have tried to do you proud, as I represented you and all of our co-workers across the country.

Arkansas is rolling out the welcome mat, hospitality, and ready to share all the agricultural and cultural wonders our colleagues work with every day. You will enjoy yourself on multiple levels from educational to fellowship, leadership to culture, catching up with long time colleagues to meeting new co-workers, awards to posters to presentations.

Thank you again for all you do! Safe travels.

I look forward to seeing each of you in Little Rock in July. It's a Natural!

## **President Elect**

**Mark Nelson**  
Utah



Sponsors and Donors are invaluable contributors to your national association. Without the funding from our supporters many of our professional improvement programs and program recognition would not be possible. Many of supporters are longtime friends of NACAA. Others have been contributing for short periods. Unfortunately one long time donor has indicated that they could not provide financial support in 2016. We were still able to raise a total of \$136,000 in donations. We would also like to welcome Merck as a new donor this year.

Sponsor and donor relations is the responsibility of the President Elect, however NACAA Executive Director Scott Hawbaker provides an invaluable, consistent linkage to the companies that support our association. I would personally like to thank Scott for all his work for NACAA and in helping us raise these funds that we use to recognize our outstanding members.

Members can also assist to maintain the support from our donors. If you attend a sponsored activity at our AM/PIC or receive program recognition I would encourage you to send a note of thanks to the sponsor. In addition many sponsorships have originated for NACAA through personal contacts by members. I would encourage you to investigate sponsorship opportunities with any contacts you many have. Check out the NACAA website for additional information.

The NACAA Donors help us as members in many ways. One is program development. The members who present at a session share their knowledge with others from across the country. These ideas and topics help expand research, demonstrations, workshop, and networks, which gives so much more back to our local areas. Member also benefit by Professional Development. This is the chance to learn from industry experts and fellow members on various issues including climate, plant, animal disease management, and so much more. Members also receive recognition and awards. The recognition of a job well done by providing the opportunity to say congratulations on research and educational programs.

As President-elect I participated in the JCEP Leadership Conference in Las Vegas. A lot of the state NACAA leaders were able to attend this leadership conference. It

was a great opportunity to learn how NACAA functions at the state and national level. The regional Directors did a nice job in planning the association meeting. I hope you think about sharing one of your great leadership programs next year in 2017 in Orlando, Florida.

I also attended the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference that was held in Crystal City, Virginia in April of this year. NACAA was well represented at this conference. On the last day of the conference we were able to visit our congressional delegation from each state. This was a great opportunity to meet them and discuss our concerns with them. I encourage you attend the PILD Conference if you have the opportunity.

It has been a career highlight for me to have been elected to the position of President Elect of NACAA in 2015. I look forward to working closely with the national leadership in the coming years but we cannot do it without your support. I would like to express my appreciation to the men and women of your board of directors, the council chairs and committee leaders for NACAA. These individuals take time from their busy programming efforts to provide you with outstanding professional opportunities.

I look forward to visiting with each of you at the 2016 AM/PIC in Little Rock, Arkansas very soon. I would like to thank everyone who has made it possible for me to serve as the NACAA President Elect this past year. I look forward to the opportunity to follow the many outstanding leaders of NACAA in the role of President of NACAA.

**Vice President**

Alan Galloway  
Tennessee



As your NACAA Vice President it has been my duty to oversee the work of the committees within NACAA. The year has passed quickly and much has been accomplished by your council chairs, committee chairs and regional vice chairs. Abraham Lincoln was quoted as having said, “Whatever you are, be a good one.” I can assure the members of NACAA your council chairs, committee chairs and regional vice chairs are “good ones”. They have been exceptional in communicating with each other and the states to conduct the work of their committees.

Much of the committee work load begins and ends with the duties of the three council chairs. It has been my pleasure to work with three very dedicated, hard-working individuals throughout the year as they served as NACAA council chairs. They are: Richard Brzozowski, Program Recognition Council Chair (Maine), Kurt Jones, Extension Development

Council Chair (Colorado) and Sherri Sanders, Professional Improvement Council Chair (Arkansas). The hours expended by the council chairs coordinating and communicating with various committees is extensive. I cannot express in words how much I appreciate their diligent work in carrying out their duties. Richard Brzozowski will complete his term as the Program Recognition Council Chair this year and we will welcome Keith Mickler (Georgia) as the new council chair of the Program Recognition Council.

Along with the leadership of the council chairs, our 18 national committee chairs and 62 regional vice chairs log many hours communicating, planning and conducting the programs to ensure NACAA members have opportunities for professional development and recognition. It has been impressive to observe the new ideas and planning efforts by the committee chairs and vice chairs to conduct the work of their committee. Many committees expanded the opportunities provided to our members for professional improvement and recognition. We have had more committees developing super seminars this year than ever before and participation in AM/PIC pre-tours has been tremendous. While the national committee members are diligent in their duties, one critical component to the success of the committee work is the state committee chair in each state. By the state chairs helping to deliver the word of each presentation opportunity, poster session, communication awards and other recognition programs to our members, then the system truly works.

I am grateful to each member involved in committee work and I highly recommend to all NACAA members if you are not already on a committee at the state level or higher to step up and volunteer. The knowledge you will learn from participating on a committee will come back in knowledge gained about committee work and you will have opportunities to see and hear about Extension programs from other members nationwide. Many successful Extension agents/educators credit their success to ideas gleaned from programs they saw or learned about through participation in NACAA. Most of us serving on the NACAA board started by involvement on a committee.

While my year as Vice President was complicated due to having to complete the duties as treasurer during the first six months as Vice President, it has been a most enjoyable and educational experience. Each position I have had held has provided the chance to meet others involved in agriculture who have the same desire to help our farmers and ranchers succeed and grow. If NACAA can provide, through our committee programs, the incentive to our members to keep learning and growing themselves then they in turn will be better enabled to help their clientele.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve as NACAA Vice President and look forward to future work

within NACAA. As each of you carry out your Extension programs this year just remember to do it to the best of your abilities so you will be referred to as a “good one” as well.

**Secretary**

**Matt Herring**  
Missouri



Serving my second term as NACAA secretary has been a little less daunting than my first year in this role, but I still find opportunities to learn about the association and how I can contribute to making it stronger.

As Secretary of the Association my primary responsibility is to record minutes of the board meetings and other activities of the association and keep our membership informed through posting minutes to the NACAA website. The board holds meetings before and after the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. We hold winter and spring board meetings and monthly teleconferences. During the meetings I take minutes, but also make audio recordings that I play back to try to capture details I may have missed. Draft minutes are reviewed by the board and then approved at a meeting that is at least two weeks after board members receive the draft minutes. After the minutes are approved by the board they are posted on the NACAA website. Links are also established to board documents. The board decided in 2010 to restrict access to association financial information and so these reports are not available through the website, but can be requested from the NACAA Treasurer.

The Association Secretary serves as the chair of the Internal Publications Committee. This committee is charged with oversight of the content of the NACAA website, The County Agent magazine and the Journal of NACAA. Stephen Brown is completing his third and final year as editor of the Journal of NACAA. He has worked with a team of reviewers to edit and evaluate article submissions. June and December editions of the journal are published each year. Stephen has worked tirelessly to continue the standards of excellence in our journal and I have greatly appreciated his skills in his service to NACAA. Lee Stivers was selected to succeed Stephen and has been training with him since the 2015 AM/PIC. The Journal provides members an avenue to publish in a peer reviewed journal, and an opportunity to share program and research results that can be used by our membership.

For many years an agreement with the National Agriculture Library in Washington D.C. allowed the association to store archival records for future use. In the early 1990’s this relationship changed and records have not been stored at the library since that time. Efforts to renew the relationship

with the library were unsuccessful with the library stating that they do not have the resources to work with the Association. The Publications Committee met to determine other options for storage of association records. They thought it was important for records to be stored so that they could not be damaged by fire or flood. The committee also thought it was important that the records be accessible by membership. Scott Hawbaker told the committee that most Association records are available on the NACAA website and what is not there he can make available to members upon request. The committee requested and the board approved the purchase of four fire proof filing cabinets for Scott to store association records in his office. Alan Galloway found cabinets for a very reasonable price. This should help secure the association’s records while keeping them accessible. The Publications committee plans to address records stored at the National Ag Library and if we should try to do anything differently with these records.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the membership of NACAA and look forward to seeing you in Little Rock in July!

**Treasurer**

**Wes Smith**  
Georgia



It has been an interesting and enjoyable year serving as treasurer. It’s also been a year of learning more about NACAA and it’s organizational structure. I started officially writing the checks on January 1<sup>st</sup>. I appreciate Past NACAA Treasurer Alan Galloway’s willingness to answer my questions and helping me out. There are way more moving parts than I originally thought there would be. A friend that has served in this position some years ago both at our state level and at the national level told me “you just have to write a few checks and go to a few meetings”. It’s far from that!

The association is in good standing. I plan to continue to watch over the association’s money and serve our association to the best of my ability. We will have some challenges to work through to make it easier for states to host national meetings and hopefully we can come up with some solutions. I believe in giving back to what has been good to me and NACAA, along with GACAA, have both been good to me throughout my career. I enjoy serving our membership.

Prior to beginning my service as NACAA Treasurer, it was my pleasure to serve as the OYF liaison. The Outstanding Young Farmer program is special to me and it meant a lot to get to serve as the first liaison. Growing up there was a certificate from the OYF program hanging in my dad’s office from where he had competed in the early 60’s. We have increased the number of applications drastically from 13 the year before the liaison position was created up to 39. Working with the

OYF board to rework the nomination/application should get more producers to apply. We all work with great young producers and need to get them recognized. I truly enjoyed my term as OYF liaison and made working relationships with great producers on the OYF side. I am glad a friend, Ray Hicks, will replace me. He has some great ideas to continue to grow the program.

**Past President**

**Mike Hogan**  
Ohio



It is hard to believe that it has been four years since we met in Charleston South Carolina for the 2012 AM/PIC and I began the journey through the NACAA President's rotation. Time truly does fly when you are having fun!

It has been an amazing experience to serve in a leadership role for NACAA the past four years, and I thank each and every one of you for the confidence and the support which you have expressed during the past four years. Sue and I have met many wonderful people during the past four years and we will treasure the wonderful experiences which we have had during this journey.

If one experience or theme from the past four years stands out for me, it would have to be the extraordinary respect and gratitude shown for our profession and your work by so many different individuals and organizations that I have interacted with. From the USDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, to donors and sponsors and university presidents & chancellors, respect and appreciation for the work that we do has never been greater.

While serving as your Past President this year, I had the privilege to represent NACAA at several national events. The National Outstanding Young Farmer Awards Program in Cincinnati was without a doubt the highlight. The extraordinary young farm families and the entire OYF organization have a remarkable affinity for NACAA and a genuine affection for county agents. Representing NACAA at PILD in Washington DC this past year again demonstrated the value which federal legislators and USDA leaders place on Extension work, and the annual JCEP Leadership Conference in Las Vegas allowed many NACAA members to hone their leadership skills.

Representing NACAA at the national meetings of other Extension professional associations such as ESP in Coeur D'Alene, ID and NAE4HA in Portland, OR allowed me the opportunity to share information about the excellent work of NACAA with our sister Extension professional associations. Our profession and our professional association will certainly face challenges in the years ahead, and I would challenge each and every NACAA member to consider serving in a NACAA

leadership role in order to address these challenges effectively and successfully. Both you and your professional association will be better off because of your service.

**Rick Gibson**  
Policy Committee Chair  
Arizona



Among the many responsibilities of the Policy chair, the most essential is the opportunity to serve as the link between the Policy Committee members, the NACAA Board of Directors, and the NACAA membership. The Policy Committee also has the responsibility of safeguarding the intent of the NACAA by-laws, assisting in the preservation of NACAA professional standards, reviewing reports and proposed actions before they are presented to the Board of Directors, and when invited, offering an opinion on new measures before the Board of Directors, NACAA committees, and the membership. The Policy Committee also offers a historical perspective, clarifies and/or interprets policy, and proposes measures to meet the challenges of changing internal and external conditions. Another key responsibility is to review and, where necessary, revise the pages of the NACAA Policy Manual. The assignment is challenging but definitely satisfying in many ways. I appreciate the opportunity to continue to engage in service to my colleagues and peers, the members of NACAA! For me, that part has always been fun. Policy chairs serve for two years and are past national presidents. In completing my first year, I have learned much, not only about the duties, but also about the intricacies of the business of NACAA from the position of one who has no official vote but who must ever be vigilant to help the Board best represent the interests of the NACAA membership.

Two years ago, the NACAA by-laws were changed by voting delegates to allow membership of the Policy Committee to include all past presidents from the previous ten years plus all active member past presidents no matter how long ago they served. The Policy Committee chair must still be an active member, if there is one available, but the change to allow retired presidents to serve allows a greater diversity of insight and opinion among the membership of the committee. Previously, only active members of the Association, and who were also past national presidents, could be considered. The new format will prove, I am sure, to be quite valuable as we move forward.

For the past year, members of the Policy Committee have included: Gary Hall, Mickey Cummings, Chuck Otte, Fred Miller, Rick Gibson, Phil Pratt, Stan Moore, Paul Wigley, Paul Craig, Henry Dorough, and Mike Hogan. Gary Hall retired during the past year, and because his presidential term was concluded over ten years ago, he has now been excused

from his lengthy run on the Committee. Even though Glenn Rogers is no longer technically a member of the Committee, I have chosen to request his insights on key issues. Mickey Cummings will formally exit the committee this year but I will similarly continue to ask for his insights. We are pleased to formally welcome Cynthia Gregg to the committee. I wish to publicly thank each of these wonderful colleagues for their past and continuing service to NACAA.

I mentioned earlier that the Policy Committee chair is routinely asked for interpretations of policy. Some questions are fairly easy to answer but occasionally some inquiries must be considered by the full committee, especially where a historical perspective, broader interpretation, or a unified opinion is needed. Such was the case this year as the NACAA Board of Directors considered the addition of Puerto Rico as a member of NACAA. The pertinent question was not about the admission of Puerto Rico, the membership of which is warmly welcomed, but about a potential problem in the by-laws as previously written. Article 1, Section 1 in the by-laws adopted September 29, 1975 stated, “One Association of professional Cooperative Extension Service workers per state (“state” means individual states including Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and District of Columbia which hereafter shall be referred to as “state”) may become a member of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents...” Careful reading will show that under this current verbiage only four of several new potential members among the various protectorates could be considered for membership. Fortunately, this did not impact the application of Puerto Rico, but it was noted that there might be others not so listed who might wish to apply for membership. Recognizing that there might in the future be other protectorates, such as American Samoa or the Northern Mariana Islands, who might wish to join the association, the Policy Committee unanimously agreed to suggest that the voting delegates consider inserting the phrase, “and other protectorates” to the by-laws between “District of Columbia” and the word “which” so that the new section would read, “One Association of professional Cooperative Extension Service workers per state (“state” means individual states including Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and District of Columbia and other protectorates, which hereafter shall be referred to as “state”) may become a member of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents...” Such a change would give all protectorates, current and perhaps future, the opportunity to apply for membership in NACAA.

I look forward to serving the membership of NACAA during this my second year as Policy chair. Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you might have related to NACAA policy.

## **North Central Region Director**

**Chris Bruynis**  
Ohio



What an honor to serve the membership of NACAA in the North Central Region! I want to thank my colleagues from Ohio for nominating me for this position. I appreciate their support in covering for me while I am out of the office on NACAA business.

As my first year, as Regional Director, comes to a close I am reflecting on all the interesting travel, new friends, and fun places I visited during the past twelve months. As I visited with each state I observed some commonalities. First is the turnover from a predominately male baby boomer workforce to a predominately female millennial workforce. What an opportunity for Extension to incorporate new ideas and philosophies into our profession! Secondly, many states are in various states of flux as leadership and funding streams changes. Finally, it did not matter what state I traveled to, everyone enjoyed great food and drink as they visited with their colleagues from across their state. I truly appreciated all the hospitality extended to me by colleagues from the North Central Region while visiting their states.

I enjoyed the time discussing issues important to our members during the NACAA board meetings. We have discussed issues like increasing membership reach, improving membership communications and benefits, and how to improve educational events, including the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. I also represented our membership while serving on the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) planning committee and assisting during the conference in April. The conference went extremely well as we attended many great breakout sessions, conversed with our USDA National Program Leaders, and held many rewarding visits with our Congressmen on Capitol Hill.

As always, let me know if you have questions, concerns, or simply need information about NACAA. I will do my best to fully represent our North Central Region members on the NACAA Board while serving for another year as your Director. I hope to see many of you in Little Rock, Arkansas, for the 101<sup>st</sup> NACAA AM/PIC!

## Northeast Region Director

Ginny Rosenkranz  
Maryland



This past year was full of interesting, creative, motivated and dedicated Extension agents!

I am deeply honored to have had the opportunity to represent the North East Region this past year and I wish to extend my thanks to the Maryland Association of County Agriculture Agents for their faith in nominating me as the North East Regional Director. My career with Maryland Extension began 22 years ago and I have been an active member with NACAA for the past 18 years, and I have always been impressed with the creative, brilliant and dedicated Extension professionals I have met over the years.

As the North East Director, I have had a great opportunity to meet many wonderful Extension professionals! I have enjoyed the responsibility to visit all the states in the North East Region last year, and it was wonderful to see old friends and meet new friends throughout the Region. All of the state annual meetings were informative, educational and always presented with wit and humor, encouraging the attendees to be engaged. My responsibility was to present new and emerging issues that the National Board was working through and to bring back to the Board any concerns and new ideas from the North East Regional states. I was also able to encourage all members to look into applying for the many wonderful awards available as there is so much creativity in every county of every state. The programs and research should be shared with all of NACAA.

I also worked with other Directors and Vice Directors to create the NACAA component of the JCEP meeting to be both informative and interesting. I try to encourage as many Extension professionals to attend the JCEP conference for the leadership development the program provides. Next year's JCEP conference will be held in Orlando, FL and I again hope many will take the opportunity to attend. I also helped plan the PILD conference held in Alexandria, VA and again I was very impressed with the creativity of the planning committee, and the professionalism that was apparent throughout the conference. I learn so much at these professional conferences!

I would like to encourage everyone to become more involved in both your state and national associations. You will receive the best professional development and leadership skills and at the same time you can develop wonderful friendships through all the networking opportunities. I look forward to seeing you all at the 2016 NACAA AM/PIC in Little Rock, Arkansas this July!

## Southern Region Director

Lenny Rogers  
North Carolina



As Little Rock and the AM/PIC approaches, so does the end of my term as Southern Region Director. It seems as just when I was getting to know most of the southern states, their members, their leadership and their administration, it is time to move on. This opportunity has been a very rewarding experience for me. I have met many wonderful people, experienced awesome educational programs and gained many new ideas while learning how NACAA truly operates across our nation. One thing I have truly learned is that there is a tremendous group of hard working, very effective extension agents in the Southern Region. I have been overly impressed through my state visits over the past few years.

I feel very good having been a part of visiting with and bringing the U.S. province of Puerto Rico into our association. In December I visited several Puerto Rican extension offices and agents, various farms, their Ag Dean at the University of Puerto Rico of Mayaguez and spoke to all of the Puerto Rican agents in Arecibo at the Puerto Rico Agriculture Agent Association Annual Meeting. Since then, the new Puerto Rican Agents' Association President, Professor Irving Rodriguez submitted a letter to the NACAA Board, requesting their acceptance into our National Association. On January 13th the NACAA Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve The Puerto Rico Association of Agricultural Agents as a as an official National member. Since then 12 members from Puerto Rico have joined out association. We are excited to have them on board and we look forward to a long and beneficial relationship in the future.

Also I feel that I have assisted NACAA by serving on the PILD Planning Committee for three years, revising the State Officers Handbook, chairing the State Relations Committee, visiting many states and leading various sessions at PILD, JCEP and AM/PIC.

I want to thank the North Carolina Association of County Agriculture Agents for their support over the past four years. I will never forget their vote of confidence in selecting me as their Southern Region Vice-Director candidate in 2012.

In closing, I encourage all NACAA members to make every effort to attend the family friendly AM/PIC in Little Rock, AR and at future sites. The knowledge, friends, connections gained, etc. will be invaluable. And you never know who you might meet on one of those Professional Improvement Tours? You might even meet a future spouse, I did!

## Southern Region Director

Jerry Brown  
Kentucky



It seems like my first year as a Southern Region Director has gone by in one quick flash. It has been a pleasure to represent NACAA at the state association meetings that I have attended this year. There are great things going on in every state that I have visited. Every state does things just a little differently than the next, but all are accomplishing many things to help the citizens of their communities and states.

There are many great association leaders in every state. Their professional development sessions and tours are interesting, educational and well planned. I have enjoyed representing NACAA at their business meetings. It is great to see all of the posters, presentations and program recognition awards received by the agents. And best of all, I enjoy just interacting with agents from these states.

Your national board is doing our best to enhance communications between the state associations and the NACAA. The state officers and state committee chairs are the backbone that makes our national program recognition and professional improvement efforts successful. At the NACAA sessions of the JCEP Leadership Conference, held each year in February, your regional directors have talked with the state leaders about how we can strengthen this communication.

Serving as a Regional Director has to be the best job in the NACAA. I would like to thank the Kentucky Association of County Agricultural Agents for their confidence in me and allowing me to serve the Southern Region. I also want thank second year directors, Lenny Rogers and Janet Schmidt, for their leadership and direction on our board duties this past year.

The more time you spend involved with this organization, the better appreciation you develop for the tremendous opportunities provided by the NACAA. There is no other Extension organization that provides Extension professionals with the depth of professional development and leadership opportunities as the NACAA. I would urge every member to take advantage of the opportunities that the association can provide to them over the course of their careers as a County Agricultural Extension Agents.

I look forward to great achievements as the NACAA begins its second hundred years.

## Western Region Director

Janet Schmidt  
Washington



Greetings from the West! At the conclusion of the AM/PIC in Little Rock, Arkansas, my term on the board as the Western Region Director will come to an end. It has been a great honor and privilege to represent the region and serve the association. The past few years have passed rapidly as I have visited many states in the West, made new friends and learned about the tremendous diversity and quality of research and educational programs offered throughout the region.

It has been a very rewarding experience to serve on the board and help shape the future of NACAA and the Extension Profession. As a Regional Director, we serve on board committees; take leadership for planning the NACAA component of JCEP and PILD; conduct Officer and Director/Vice Director workshops at the AM/PIC; other activities as assigned; and participate in state association visits.

I have served on the Fiscal Committee, Policy Committee, Development and Planning. Working on these committees has given me a greater insight into our association. The highlight of my board work has been meeting new colleagues during state visits or at conferences. Regarding state visits, I have had the opportunity to visit Arizona and Wyoming as a Vice-Director and Montana, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska and of course my home state of Washington as a Director. I hope to visit at least one more state before my term comes to an end.

I am highly optimistic about the future of the Extension Profession and NACAA. Membership is up by 63 members and many states are hiring. The knowledge and talent that these new hires possess will carry NACAA to the next level.

At the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) meeting this past February, we had several presentations regarding millennials in the work place. Many of the new hires in the states are millennials and they are incredibly talented! We are in good hands with their leadership and capabilities. Speaking of JCEP, it is a truly exceptional professional development experience. I attended many presentations with take away messages that will help me be a better, more productive Extension Educator. If you have not been to a JCEP Conference, I highly recommend it.

Regarding professional development, the Western Region is very unique in that we are the only region that offers a mini or regional AM/PIC. Last year, Alaska hosted this event. This year, the Western Region NACAA AM/PIC will be October 27-28, 2016 at the Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel in Kona, Hawaii. Hawaii would like to invite all those

interested to please attend. A wonderful program has been organized by HACAA with support from event sponsors and help from Cooperative Extension Service partners in Alaska, Oregon, Utah, and Washington States. Please visit <http://www.wrampic2016.com/> for details and <http://tinyurl.com/zvrebup> for easy online registration. My challenge to the membership is to engage in the many opportunities that NACAA provides!

In closing, since I am a horse person, I can say it has been a great ride and it will be a pleasure to pass the reins to Stephen Brown as your new incoming Western Regional Director. Stephen is very talented and will be an excellent Regional Director. Many of you know him as Editor for the Journal of NACAA. I want to thank my colleagues in Washington for nominating me for the Western Regional Director for NACAA. This opportunity only comes once in a person's career. I also want to thank Washington State University Extension Administration, Rich Koenig, Director of Extension, Pat Boyes and Doreen Hauser-Lindstrom, Unit Leaders and all my co-workers for supporting me in this endeavor. Last but not least, a huge thanks to my supportive husband Tim who cares for our "four-legged" kids while I am traveling and attending meetings.

As always, if I can answer questions or carry messages to the board, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing everyone in Little Rock, Arkansas, for the 2016 edition of the NACAA AM/PIC!

**Professional Improvement Council Chair**

Sherri Sanders  
Arkansas



The Professional Improvement Council (PIC) is one of the three Councils that make up the committee structure of NACAA.

The purpose of this council is to further the professional improvement of our members. The Council consists of six committees: Agricultural Economics & Community Development, Agronomy & Pest Management, Animal Science, Horticulture & Turfgrass, Natural Resources/Aquaculture and Sustainable Agriculture.

The educational activities consist of presentations, educational tours, and super seminars planned for AM/PIC. One of the greatest attributes of the NACAA AM/PIC is that most of the presentations given are by other agents or specialists from across the country. Not only is this advantageous for promotion in rank for the presenter, it is "real-world" useful information that other participants can take home, modify and use in their own area of work. Between the member

led presentations, pre-tours and super seminars planned, everyone will have ample opportunities to experience a wide variety of topics.

Animal Science, Horticulture and Natural Resources/Aquaculture/Sea Grant have planned educational pre-tour opportunities. The Animal Science pre-tour will allow the participants a diverse view of Arkansas. The group will depart Little Rock and travel toward Fayetteville in the northwest corner of the state to see the Tyson Foods Discovery Center, University of Arkansas Poultry Science Department, I-40 Livestock Auction, USDA Dale Bumpers Small farms Research Center, a purebred Angus cattle operation, and many other sites. This tour is being coordinated by Brian Haller and a team of Ag agents from Arkansas.

The Horticulture two day pre - tour has been arranged by Randy Forst and Janet Carson of the University of Arkansas. The group will enjoy a trip to P. Allen Smith's home and farm called Moss Mountain. They will tour the gardens and the farm there. They are slated to go to Wye Mountain Flowers and Berries, The Fruit Substation at Clarksville, Bemis Tree Farm, North Pulaski Farms and to Heifer Ranch. Bonnie Plants is a sponsor for this event.

Natural Resources/Aquaculture/Sea Grant committee will offer a two day pre-tour that highlights why Arkansas is called "The Natural State." Participants will learn about native wildlife and plant species issues managers face with these resources, and operations that blend commercial enterprises with environmental protection. The group will visit Stuttgart (the Rice and Duck Capital of the World) and the largest baitfish hatchery in the world. Dr. Mike Daniels, University of Arkansas Professor for Extension Water Quality is coordinating the tour in our state.

Sustainable Agriculture has chosen four new SARE Fellows. The committee is planning a trade show booth. Current and former SARE Fellows will man the booth to share with you their experiences about the program.

NACAA is an organization with numerous opportunities for professional development and leadership. One method of involvement is through the committee structure, which provides a way for members to share their talents for the benefit of NACAA. This next year, I encourage you to try something new with NACAA, apply for a committee position, participate in a pre-tour, apply to be a presenter, apply for an award or perhaps put your hat in the ring to become a SARE Fellow!

Finally, with sincere gratitude, thank you to the committee chairs, vice chairs and state chairs. I truly appreciate your hard work and dedication. My sincere appreciation is extended to Alan Galloway for his leadership and to Mary Sobba for "never being more than a phone call away".

## Agronomy & Pest Management

Wade Parker  
Georgia



Committee members:  
Wade Parker, Southern Region  
Bruce Clevenger, North Central Region  
Aaron Easer, Western Region  
Paul Cerosaletti, Northeast Region

This year has been a very exciting and busy year for the Agronomy and Pest Management committee, as we look forward to an exciting annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. This year's Super Seminar, **Unmanned Aircraft: Are You Ready to be a Pilot and Chart New Directions?**

This workshop promises to be a continuation of our unmanned aircraft system (UAS) seminar from last year. This year we will be focusing on types of unmanned aircraft platforms, potential applications in precision agriculture, and an overview of rules/regulations. A variety of unmanned aircraft will be available for workshop participants to explore from a "first hand" perspective. The seminar will also include hands-on experience with a flight simulator and a micro-UAS. Due to limited equipment the seminar will be limited to the first 25 people that register. An e-mail will be sent with registration information. The super seminar will take place on Wednesday, July 27 from 1:00-4:00 PM. The seminar is being coordinated by the UAS in Agriculture Learning Network of eXtension (<http://www.learnuasag.org/>). We look forward to seeing you!

### Presenters include:

**Dr. Jim Robbins** – Extension Specialist in commercial ornamental plants at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture for the past 18 years. His role is to support all Green Industry businesses including garden center, wholesale growers, and landscapers.

**Dr. Dharmendra Saraswat** –Associate Professor of Agricultural & Biological Agriculture at Purdue University. His research is focused on using information and communication technologies for solving issues in plant production (field and nursery crops) and management of natural resources. Drs. Robbins & Saraswat have collaborated on research using UAS-based sensors data since 2010.

**Dr. Wayne Woldt** - Associate Professor of Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has active research and Extension education programs on unmanned aircraft for remote sensing in crop production – with an emphasis on irrigation management. Dr. Woldt has a private pilot rating for single engine land aircraft, a glider with self-launch endorsement, a commercial hot air balloon rating, and has been flying unmanned aircraft under FAA authorization for more than four years.

## Agricultural Economics & Community Development

David Bau  
Minnesota



The Agricultural Economics and Community Development committee is pleased offer professional improvement opportunities for NACAA members. This year's AM/PIC will include a Super Seminar Tuesday morning, examining farm legal issues important to Extension professionals. There will be member presentations on a variety of topics important to Extension professionals on Tuesday afternoon.

This year's super seminar will take place on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Keynote speaker John Dillard will continue discussing legal issues currently facing agriculture. He will be followed by Harrison Pittman from the Ag Law Center in Little Rock discussing agricultural law issues important to extension educators. Laurence Crane with National Crop Insurance Services will wrap up the seminar discussing crop insurance issues. Margins are getting tighter for farmers across America and balance sheets are deteriorating, make plans to attend seminar to look at legal aspects.

We are able to offer this seminar through the generous sponsorship of the National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS).

A total of 14 proposals from members were received for Agricultural Economics and Community Development Professional Improvement Council presentations. After careful consideration by the committee, 11 proposals were selected for presentation at the AM/PIC. Make plans now to join us for these presentations on Tuesday afternoon. Topics will include:

- The Ohio Farm Employment Handbook: Using technology to create an online bulletin, by Eric E. Barrett and Peggy Hall, Ohio
- Ag CEO's Lender's Conference, by Jack Davis, South Dakota
- Design your Succession Plan - Pilot Project and Beyond, by Willie Huot, North Dakota
- Your Farm, Your Business, Your Future: New Missouri Extension Curriculum for Transferring Assets Across Generations, by Mark Jenner Missouri
- Extension's Role in the Development of Urban Agriculture Social Enterprises, by Ms. Jacqueline Kowalski, Ohio

- Education Beyond Annie's Project Class, by Mary Sobba, Missouri
- Exploratory Study to Identify Business Interest in Local Foods in the Somerset County Region, by Kathryn M. Hopkins, Maine
- Whole Farm Analysis with Crop Enterprise Budgets, by Archie Flanders, Arkansas
- Marketing Locally Raised Beef, by Megan Bruch Leffew, Tennessee
- Demonstrating Economic Impact by Implementing SNAP/EBT at Your Farmers Market, by Martha B. Maddox and Dr. J. Stacy Strickland, Florida
- County Profile: Community Development in High Definition, by Trevor C. Lane, Washington

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

North Central Region Chair and Vice Chair – David Bau, MN  
 Southern Region Vice Chair – Megan Bruch Leffew, TN  
 North East Region Vice Chair – Shannon Potter Dill, MD  
 Western Region Vice Chair – Jody A Gale, UT

## **Animal Science**

**Brian Beer**  
 South Carolina



Committee Members:

Chair: Brian Beer, SC  
 Northeast Region Vice-chair: Elizabeth Claypoole, NY  
 Western Region Vice-chair: Kellie Chichester, WY  
 North Central Region Vice-chair: Chris Penrose, OH  
 Southern Region Vice-chair: Rebekah Norman, TN

Each year the Animal Science Committee is responsible for planning and conducting the two-day Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Seminar and Tour. This is a tremendous professional improvement opportunity for our members and a great way to network with colleagues from across the country having similar interests.

Northeast Region Vice-chair, Elizabeth Claypoole, along with Nicole Carutis and Heather Weeks from Pennsylvania, planned and conducted a webinar that highlighted the 2015 Pre-Conference Tour as a means to increase interest and participation. All interested NACAA members were invited to participate and learn more about the Pre-Conference Animal Science Seminar and Tour. This was the first time our committee used a webinar to highlight the tour. Thank you to Elizabeth, Nichole, and Heather for taking leadership and presenting this information to NACAA members.

The 2016 Pre-AM/PIC Animal Science Tour is scheduled for July 21-23, 2016. The tour will begin in Little Rock, travel toward Fayetteville, and conclude back in Little Rock. Some of the highlights include: USDA Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center, I-40 Livestock Auction, Tyson Foods Discovery Center & University of Arkansas Poultry Science Department, Jac's Ranch (purebred Angus cattle), Fayetteville Biosolids Management Farm, White River Creamery (goat dairy and artisan cheese), Marely Farm (University of Arkansas Discovery Farm), and Willow Springs Cattle Company (show cattle). Thanks to Brian Haller from Arkansas, and his team, Berni Kurz, Johnny Gunsaulis, Cindy Ham, Dr. Dustan Clark and Dr. Andrew Sharpley for planning a great tour this year.

This year's tour will have 26 participants from 13 different states. Each year the committee seeks sponsorships for the tour, with participants funding the remainder. We express our sincere appreciation to this year's sponsors: Merck Animal Health, Livestock Marketing Association, and Purina, Land O' Lakes. Also, thanks to all the tour stops and to our local meal sponsors for their vital role in making the tour possible.

In Little Rock you will have the opportunity to hear about some successful Extension programs and research being conducted by your peers. There will be 15 presentations offered during the Animal Science Professional Improvement Seminars on Tuesday afternoon of the AM/PIC. Presentations will cover beef cattle, dairy, equine, swine and forage topics. Be sure to review the AM/PIC Program when you arrive in Little Rock so you can find the time and place of the presentations that interest you. I'm confident you will learn something that can be used in your programs when you return home.

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

Please join us for the full Animal Science Committee meeting on Monday afternoon. We will be planning the committee's activities for 2016-2017. Input from NACAA members is critical to insure that committee activities are meeting the membership's needs. We invite you to be part of the planning process by attend the committee meeting.

Thank you to the committee vice-chairs. Each of you contributed during committee discussions and helped guide decisions that will make the 2016 AM/PIC in Little Rock a great professional development experience for NACAA members.

## Natural Resources/ Aquaculture

Libbie Johnson  
Florida



Libbie Johnson, Committee Chair, Southern Region—Florida  
Katie Wagner, Western Region Vice-Chair, Utah  
Todd Lorenz, North Central Region Vice-Chair, Missouri  
Pat Rector, North Central Region Vice-Chair, New Jersey

With the help of Dr. Mike Daniels, University of Arkansas Professor for Extension Water Quality, the Natural Resources/Aquaculture committee will offer a two day pre-tour that highlights why Arkansas is called “The Natural State.” Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the native wildlife and plant species, what issues land and water resource managers face trying to manage these resources, and see operations that blend commercial enterprises with environmental protection. We will visit Lake Maumelle, the source of central Arkansas’s main water supply. Watershed management plans for Lake Maumelle are key components of assuring the effective and long-term protection of the Little Rock and surround communities drinking water, while maintaining affordability and abundance. We will also visit fruit, berry and timber operations on Friday. On our way to visit Stuttgart (the Rice and Duck Capital of the World), we will stop by the largest baitfish hatchery and fish farm in the world. The Saturday trip will also include lessons about water management for crop production and duck/wildlife habitat when we visit the Bayou Metro Water Management District, Five Oaks (a full service duck hunting lodge), and Terry Dabbs at an Arkansas Discovery Farm.

Our committee was very pleased by the number of abstract submissions for this year’s AM/PIC. We were able to accept the following:

- Aquaponics Systems Evaluations for Production, Sustainability, and Environmental Effects—Brad Bergefurd
- Restoring the Health of Silver Lake—Gary Fredricks
- Community Programming and Stormwater—Pat Rector
- Initial Assessment of E. coli and D.O. in a Recently Refilled Lake—Salvatore Mangiafico
- Native Meadow Habitats in Stormwater Detention Basins—an Urban Pollinator Refuge—Mike Haberland
- A Multidisciplinary Invasive Species Workshop—Matt Orwat and Mark Mauldin
- Eastern Ohio Oil and Gas Royalties Workshop—Mark A. Landefeld
- What is the Role of Natural Resource Professionals

in Landowner Legacy Planning? Adam Downing

- Educating Natural Resource Professionals through Agency Collaboration in Arkansas—Dr. Rebecca J. McPeake
- Targeted Grazing to Reduce Wildfire Spread in Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystems—Scott Jensen and Chris Schachtschneider
- The Color Country Natural Resource Experience: Enhancing Education through Creative Partnerships—Vernon Parent

Finally, we are very excited to announce that we will have a whole afternoon session dedicated to AgroForestry. Dr. Carol Williams, Research Scientist for the Center for AgroForestry at the University of Missouri helped to set up this session that will provide an introduction to temperate agroforestry and its main practices; insight into agroforestry’s multiple ecological and environmental benefits; and resources for further information and training.

- Temperate agroforestry practices: Successful strategies to help farmers—Carol L. Williams
- Productive farming resilient to a changing climate—Richard Straight
- Promoting pollinators with perennial practices—Gary Bentrup
- Silvopasture: Opportunities for agroforestry transitions—Gene Garrett
- Early stages of transitioning managed timber to silvopasture: A practitioners experience in planning and implementation—Rennie Reynolds
- Opportunities for education & training for farmers, agricultural agents, and military veterans—Gregory Ormsby Mori

If you are interested in learning more about our committee or taking a more active roll, please join us on Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. See the conference agenda to find out which room.

## Horticulture & Turfgrass

Sarah Denkler  
Missouri



Sarah Denkler, Committee Chair  
Annette Meyer Heisdorffer, Southern Region, Vice Chair  
Ronald Patterson, Western Region, Vice Chair

Marjorie Peronto, Northeast Region, Vice Chair  
Patrick Byers, North Central Region, Vice chair

Our Horticulture and Turfgrass committee looks forward to an exciting annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. We have once again collaborated to develop an outstanding pre-tour before the AM/PIC as well as an excellent slate of presentations related to horticulture in Extension.

As arranged by our local host and tour guides, Randy Forst and Janet Carson of University of Arkansas, we will start off on Friday July 22 in Little Rock Arkansas leaving from the hotel before 12:00 p.m. The group will be traveling together by bus. The group will drive north to Moss Mountain (P. Allen Smith) to tour the gardens and farm. From there we will attend Wye Mountain Flowers and Berries for a tour then move onto Heifer Ranch for a tour and dinner before returning back to Little Rock that evening.

Saturday morning, we will load the buses and depart at 7:30 am from the hotel, driving to the Clarksville Research Farm for a thorough tour followed by lunch. Once we depart from there we will move onto North Pulaski Farms and then to Bemis Tree Farm. We will return Saturday evening at a reasonable time for dinner on your own.

We sincerely thank our sponsor Bonnie Plants and their representative Cheryl Lange for this special opportunity to visit all these great horticultural establishments and to network with our colleagues for an extended period.

Please join us for the Horticulture and Turfgrass committee meeting on Monday, July 25 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. where we will discuss horticultural issues and introduce the new committee leadership to begin planning for 2017.

On Tuesday July 26 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. we will offer 3 professional improvement sessions with 15 presentations including soil testing, invasive beetles, diseases in wine grapes, warm season grasses, the spotted lanternfly, jail gardens and Master Gardeners.

Finally, we offer our sincere appreciation to our regional vice chairs and state chairs as well as the NACAA leaders/organizers/officers, especially Sherri Sanders and Scott Hawbaker for their easily accessible guidance and advice over this past year.

## **Sustainable Agriculture**

Suzanne Mills-Wasniak  
Ohio



The Sustainable Agriculture Committee has been busy planning for 2016 activities while planning to celebrate an important anniversary. In 2017 the SARE Fellows Program celebrates its' tenth year. Thirty-four Fellows from twenty four states have completed the USDA – SARE Fellows Program through 2015. A celebration is being planned for the NACAA AM PIC in Salt Lake City in 2017.

In 2016 the SARE Fellows program had twenty four applicants. After reviewing the applications the committee selected one applicant from each of the four NACAA regions to be a Fellow. Please congratulate the 2016 SARE Fellows:  
Northeast Region – Olivia Saunders, New Hampshire

North Central Region – Michael O'Donnell, Indiana  
Southern Region – Laura M. Miller, Texas  
Western Region – Seth Swanson, Montana.

In 2015 SARE Fellows experienced Sustainable Agriculture in Arkansas (Southern Region) and Nebraska (North Central Region). Sustainable Agriculture Committee vice Chairs from the Southern and North Central Regions attended their respective regional trips and wish to commend the Arkansas and Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture organizing committees for outstanding educational experiences.

The 2013 SARE Fellows will be front and center at the SARE Fellows luncheon to be held on Tuesday, July 26. They will be presenting an overview of their SARE Fellows experiences and how they plan to use what they have learned in their respective programs. All NACAA members are welcome at the luncheon.

This year the Sustainable Agriculture Committee will have a booth at the trade show in Little Rock. We will be featuring the SARE Fellows program. With pictures from the SARE Fellows trips, Sustainable Agricultural practices will be on display. Current and former SARE Fellows will staff the booth to share with you their experiences.

Seven NACAA members will be presenting their work during the professional improvement seminars under Sustainable Agriculture on Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at the AM PIC Conference in Little Rock. The presentations cover soil health and cover crops, organics, and bees.

It would be impossible for a committee to function without the dedicated Regional Vice Chairs, working towards positive program impact. I would like to express my gratitude to Northeast vice Chair Michelle Infante – Casella, Southern Vice Chair William (Bill) Tyson, and Western Vice Chair Matt Palmer.

I wish to thank Professional Improvement Council Chair Sherri Sanders and Scott Hawbaker for their counsel and patience. The Sustainable Agriculture committee looks forward the seeing you in Little Rock.

## **Extension Development Council Chair**

Kurt Jones  
Colorado



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 2016 AM/PIC include informational seminars on Tuesday morning, July 26. The presentations are part of four concurrent sessions featuring 12 hours of training. There are some exciting and diverse topics that have been accepted. Our council is also offering two super seminars this year. Early Career is offering advice on mentorship and building your vita, and Ag. Issues has planned a super seminar to help County Agents identify the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule training and outreach needs of their growers through the development of a statewide produce safety action plan. 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 Agriculture Issues and Public Relations also conducted an outstanding webinar on GMO's in March of this year. These sessions are archived and available for those who missed the live broadcasts (see the NACAA website for the URL).

One piece of advice that I received as a relatively new agent was to join NACAA and get involved in committee work. It is something that I have taken to heart, and it has helped me in my career tremendously. 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 25 at the AM/PIC.

Finally, I offer my appreciation to our committee chairs, regional vice-chairs and state chairs as well as Vice President Galloway for their individual and collective leadership and guidance during the past year.

**Agricultural Issues & Public Relations**

Meredith Vaughn Melendez  
New Jersey



The Agricultural Issues and Public Relations committee has been busy preparing for the 2016 NACAA conference in Little Rock! We are pleased to welcome Jeff Anderson of New Mexico and Melody Teague of Tennessee to the committee. We would like to thank Bill Burdine and Don McMoran for their previous service to the AI&PR committee. Bill is now serving as the Vice-Director of the Southern Region. Our Ag Issues and Public Relations session will take place on Tuesday morning in Little Rock. We have a great lineup

of speakers who will focus on topics including: agricultural careers and drones, marketing extension programs, farm food safety, livestock education for law enforcement, and utilizing community resources. I hope you can find time to join us in this session filled with important information relevant to your producers.

The committee has also been hard at work preparing for our super seminar that will take place on Wednesday afternoon. The focus of this seminar is to help agricultural agents understand who in their region will be impacted by the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Rule. Identifying producers who could be impacted, assisting them in understanding the components of the rule and identifying resources for both the growers and agents will be discussed. Experts from the Produce Safety Alliance are working to develop a tool-kit that any agent, no matter their familiarity with the Produce Safety rule, can use in their county.

I had the pleasure of attending the Outstanding Young Farmers annual meeting in Cincinnati this year, along with the new OYF NACAA liaison Ray Hicks from Georgia and a number of other NACAA members. I am always so impressed with the farmer winners and nominees recognized by OYF, if you have a chance to attend this meeting I highly recommend it! Be sure to nominate an Outstanding Young Farmer from your County, application forms can be located at [http://www.nacaa.com/awards/other\\_awards.php](http://www.nacaa.com/awards/other_awards.php). Nominations are due by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Finally I would like to offer my appreciation to the AI&PR committee members and Kurt Jones our Extension Development Council Chair. They have been incredibly helpful and responsive in our collaborations to organize our programs. We look forward to seeing everyone in Little Rock!

**Early Career Development**

Nicholas Simmons  
Mississippi



The Early Career Development Committee has been busy during the past year thanks to the efforts of our committee members:  
Ed Martin, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension  
Emily Adams, Ohio State University Extension  
Jenny Carleo, Rutgers University Extension Service

The focus of the Early Career Development Committee is to develop professional improvement opportunities that assist members with early career development. The education provided typically involves tools and resources to help an

early to mid-career employee succeed. Presentation at past conferences have included mentoring, promotion, work/life balance, and publishing in Extension and other professional journals.

The Early Career Development Committee is excited to sponsor a super seminar on Sunday July, 24th from 1-3 pm. The goal of this super seminar is to provide in-depth information related to career development, current trends in extension education, and the roles of mentors and protégés.

Our first speaker is Daniel Kluchinski, Assistant Director of Extension and Chair of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Management Agents in Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Dan's presentation will focus on the mentoring process including roles, responsibilities and timelines, and on building mentoring relationships through communication, commitment and trust. Participants will learn how to develop meaningful relationships that benefit both the protégé and the mentor, and in turn, our Cooperative Extension programs and professional organizations.

Our second speaker is Dr. Nick Place, Dean for Extension & Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. Dr. Place's presentation will focus on administrative expectations and opportunities for Agents in relation to Extension careers. Participants will learn about how Extension careers have evolved over time and where we are heading; in addition, you'll learn how to see and how to position yourself to take advantage of opportunities for career advancement in Extension.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our super seminar session!

One of the educational programs developed by the Early Career Development Committee is an educational session at the 2016 AM/PIC in Little Rock, AR. Seven abstracts from members have been accepted for presentation. These topics are applicable to more than just early career professionals. Following is a list of accepted presentations:

*Painlessly Publishing in the Journal of NACAA*  
Stephen Brown, University of Alaska Fairbanks

*How to Replace "Winging it" with "Winning it" When Planning Programs*  
Jenny Carleo, Rutgers University

*Deep Work vs. Shallow Work: A Time Management Method*  
Sheila L Gray, Washington State University

*Reaching Out: Conducting A Needs Assessment*  
Andrew Holsinger, Jr., University of Illinois

*Engaging New Members in Your State Association Activities: Programs and Ideas*

Libbie Johnson, University of Florida

*How to Get the Most Out of Your Performance Appraisal*

Daniel Kluchinski, Rutgers University

*Finding Peace in the Promotion and Tenure Process: Guidance for the New Extension Professional*

Donald A. Llewellyn, Washington State University

The other main product of the Early Career Development Committee was the NACAA AM/PIC First Timers Webinar held on Thursday, April 19th 2016. The purpose of this webinar was to better prepare participants for the 2016 AM/PIC by reviewing the conference program, logistics, and the registration process. Approximately 21 participated in the live presentation and the presentation was also archived at ..... We partnered this year to incorporate more information from the committee working with First Timer's at the AM/PIC. The First Timer's Reception will be held on Sunday, July 24th, the luncheon on Monday, July 25th, and this year the goal is to match mentors with first time attendees.

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. Our meeting will be held on Monday, July 25th from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Your ideas will be useful for the development of goals for the 2016 – 2017 year and the 2017 AM/PIC. Please share your thoughts and ideas with any of the committee members. We look forward to seeing you in Little Rock, AR!

### **Administrative Skills**

Bruce Barbour  
New Jersey



“Administrative skills” mean many things to many people. The best examples in my career have been a mix of clever persuasion, integrity, caring honesty, nurture, awareness of duty and tolerance for the many paths humans can take to get a job done. The toughest for me has always been disciplining others; whether it be in the form of a critical performance review or a less than expected raise. It was at those times I would have to remind myself that an organization can't have high standards if there is no consequence of below standard performance. Administrative work is not easy, if it is done well and worse if it is done poorly!

But fortunately we in the NACAA have a wealth of colleagues from whom we can learn and benefit.

This year at our Tuesday morning session we will feature three fine presentations. Florida's Wendy Wilber will present "RECRUITING, RETAINING AND DISMISSING VOLUNTEERS". Virginia's Rachel Grosse will present "ENSURING AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT BY LOCAL AGENCIES THROUGH EDUCATION OF LOCAL CANDIDATES". And Eric Richer from the Buckeye State will tell us about "BREAKFAST ON THE FARM, AN EDUCATIONAL FARM TOUR, IMPROVES CONSUMER TRUST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, ANIMAL CARE, AND WATER QUALITY."

So if your administrative interests run to working with volunteers or looking out for the public relations of your unit there will be food for thought delivered by our worthy presenters.

A parting thought. One of the best administrators I ever worked under had a fondness for referring to the "extension family". I confess that at times I thought that a bit hoaky. However a recent book by Sebastian Junger, "Tribe", looks at the concept of community and our need for it though the lens of soldiers returning to civilian life. It finds that the divisiveness of modern society is just too much of a shock for men and women who have been living in the tribal closeness, interdependence and mutual support of the military life. The discussion of that book led me to reflect that as Cooperative Extension has attempted to change with the times and become more "businesslike" we have lost some of our critical sense of community. At least in my part of the world that sense of shared mission, respect and loyalty has given way to an increased emphasis on "entrepreneurship" and self aggrandizement. Maybe its time for a return to talk about the "extension family". Best wishes to you all!

### Teaching & Educational Technologies

Connie Strunk  
South Dakota



The Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee is excited to help members improve their skills related to the art and science of extension practice. Some of these opportunities will be taking place in Little Rock, Arkansas during the 101<sup>st</sup> National AM/PIC while some of the other opportunities will take place throughout the rest of the year. Our committee has been trying to focus on emerging and established technologies which can make all educators more efficient and effective with our teaching and extension programming.

We offered a webinar, "Getting the Most Out of Your Mobile Device" presented by Aaron Esser, Washington State

University Extension Agronomist in the late winter/early spring. We are always looking for webinar ideas as we felt the webinar session was very successful. We also will be attempting to record the presentations offered during our educational session in Little Rock, AR. If you have any comments or feedback, we would love to hear them!

Make plans to join the Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 in Little Rock, AR from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for our educational session. Our session will feature speakers focusing on webinars, interactive games, on-line training, diverse audiences, and a companion handbook.

Our committee is excited to share the following presentations with you:

***From Start to Finish: Effective Education Using Webinars***  
Julie C. Robinson and Richard L. Poling, Arkansas  
8:30 – 9:00 AM

***Interactive Games for Adult Audiences***  
Julie McConnell, Florida  
9:00 – 9:30 AM

***WSU Extension Tree Stewards Online Training***  
Nicole Martini, Washington  
9:30 – 10:00 AM

***Teaching Diverse Audiences in the Same Classroom***  
Don McMoran, Washington  
10:00 – 10:30 AM

***Development and Evaluation of an Online Soil Sampling Course***  
Julie C. Robinson and Terry Kirkpatrick, Arkansas  
10:30 – 11:00 AM

***A Companion for the Handbook of Biological Statistics Uses R for Free Statistical Analysis***  
Salvatore Mangiafico, New Jersey  
11:00 – 11:30 AM

State Teaching and Educational Technologies Chairs and other parties interested in teaching and educational technologies are encouraged to attend the Teaching and Educational Technologies committee meeting at this year's AM/PIC on Monday, July 25, 2016 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. Your ideas will be useful for the development of goals for the 2016-2017 year and the 2017 AM/PIC. If you cannot attend, please share your thoughts and ideas with any of the committee members throughout the year.

The Teaching and Educational Technologies Committee consists of:

Connie L. Strunk, (SD), National Committee Chair and North Central Region Committee Vice-Chair;  
 Michele Bakacs, (NJ), Northeast Region Committee Vice-Chair;  
 Jerry Clemons, (AR), Southern Region Committee Vice-Chair;  
 Susan Kerr, (WA), Western Region Committee Vice-Chair

**Program Recognition Council**

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 work of its members in their respective states, regions and counties. Each year the committees review a great number of entries to determine state, regional and national winners. Each committee has worked with dedication 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 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. In Little Rock, there will be a wide variety of presentations from which to choose. I encourage you to attend as many sessions as your schedule permits with the goal of learning and networking. Go out of your way at the AM/PIC to introduce yourself, meet others and to make connections. Go with the intention to identify programming ideas and methods to adapt, to use, or to pass on to Extension co-workers.

NACAA is an organization that provides a variety of ways for membership involvement. 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 the organization and of its members. If you have never been involved with a committee or if it's been a while, I encourage you to consider serving on a committee. Committee work is a great way to meet others, learn about our organization and share your knowledge, abilities and skills.

This has been my final year as the Chair for the Program Recognition Council. I have genuinely appreciated the support and advice I have received from NACAA leadership and many others.

I am grateful to the committee chairs, vice chairs and state chairs. Their attention to detail and extra effort are what makes this committee structure successful, thus benefiting our organization and its members.

Best wishes to all attendees for a great AM/PIC.

**Communications**

David Marrison  
 Ohio



The NACAA Communications Committee is pleased to report that Bayer Advanced has continued sponsorship of the Communications Awards Program for 2016. Their support of this awards program is very much appreciated! Our committee continued to work this year on expediting the judging of all entries in a timely fashion and developed a "Frequently Asked Question" help sheet to help state chairman answer questions from their membership.

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. In total, we had 586 total entries were made from across the nation. Congratulations to the Florida Association for having 79 applications submitted at the state level to lead all states by a large margin. The following is a summary of the entries made in each category.

- Audio recording had 39 entries
- Published Photo and Caption had 29 entries
- Computer Generated Graphics had 38 entries
- Promotional Piece had 83 entries
- Personal Column had 76 entries
- Feature Story had 55 entries
- Individual Newsletter had 53 entries
- Team Newsletter had 32 entries
- Video Presentation had 50 entries
- Fact Sheet had 36 entries
- Publication had 45 entries

- Web Site had 49 entries
- Learning Module had 18 entries
- Bound Book had 17 entries

I am appreciative to the regional vice-chairs for the communication committee. The regional vice-chairs are: North Central Region Chair - Michelle Buchanan (Kansas), North East Region Chair Donna Coffin (Maine), Southern Region Chair – Donna Hamlin Beliech (Mississippi) and West Region Chair – Mark D. Heitstuman (Washington). I would like to thank Richard Brzozowski and Scott Hawbaker for their assistance throughout the year with questions and concerns.

### **Search for Excellence**

**Stanley 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, Stacey Bealmear-Jones from Arizona (Recently moved to North Carolina), Travis Harper from Missouri, and Greg Strait from Pennsylvania.

The committee held an organizational meeting by conference call in January 2016. 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:

- Consumer or Commercial Horticulture – Stacey Bealmear-Jones
- Livestock Production – Travis Harper
- Crop Production – Greg Strait
- Young, Beginning, or Small Farmer – Amy Lynn Albertson
- Forestry & Natural Resources – Travis Harper
- Farm & Ranch Financial Management – Greg Strait
- Farm Health and Safety – Amy-Lynn Albertson
- Sustainable Agriculture – Stan McKee

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 – 12 completed entries
- Livestock Production – 13 completed entries
- Crop Production – 12 completed entries
- Young, Beginning, or Small Farmer/Rancher – 4 completed entries
- Forestry & Natural Resources – 8 completed entries
- Farm and Ranch Financial Management – 13 completed entries
- Farm Health and Safety – 3 completed entries
- Sustainable Agriculture – 10 completed entries

The total number of entries received was 13 less than last year, but 14 more than 2014. There is certainly an opportunity for more Members to participate by submitting entries in SFE. The entries are not difficult to prepare and submit, and the program provides a great opportunity for individual and team recognition. Our 2016 winners and finalists will be recognized during their respective SFE luncheons at the upcoming AM/PIC. The committee will continue to promote the SFE awards program, and encourage more applications next year.

The recently added Forestry and Natural Resources category again received 8 entries this year. There are still opportunities for sponsorship with this new category, and suggestions of potential sponsors would certainly be welcome.

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 the NACAA Board for their support of the Search for Excellence program.

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 and Youth**

**James Jones**  
Oklahoma



Everytime that I have the opportunity to review our membership's award and presentation applications, I am in awe of the outstanding programming efforts and programs that are being delivered. This year has been no different. There were 30 award applications from all four regions. The judging was extremely difficult and the final results were close. The same goes for the presentation

applications. There were so many quality presentations applications that the committee voted unanimously to maximize the number of presentation spots so that we could get more presentations given during the AM/PIC.

I would like to encourage the membership to not only keep the outstanding applications and entries coming, but to increase them. Make the committees jobs even harder to decide who to include and who the winners should be. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as the national chair and I look forward to next year.

## Professional Excellence

Keith Mickler  
Georgia



In 2015 we saw the poster session go from judging all posters entered to judging only the state winners. By reducing the number of posters being judged, the judging became more equitable and less time consuming. Posters were able to be judged using a team approach with the team consisting of a member from each region.

In 2016 another key change took effect. The change involved replacing the senior author attendance/ registration requirement with the requirement that an author listed on the poster must be in attendance and registered for the AM/PIC along with attending “meet the author’s sessions.”

In 2016, 141 abstracts were accepted for the AM/PIC in Little Rock with 40 entries in the Applied Research and 101 entries in Extension Education. A summary of posters and authors will be available during the poster session allowing one easy location for posters of potential interest.

Posters must be in place no later than 1:00 p.m. Sunday, July 24 through Tuesday, July 26, 2016. “Meet the Author’s Poster Session” will be from 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m on Monday, July 25 and Tuesday, July 26.

National, regional, and state winners will be formally announced and recognized during the poster session awards breakfast that will be held on Tuesday, July 26 starting at 6:30 a.m. Syngenta Crop Protection will sponsor the 2016 Poster Awards Breakfast.

During the awards breakfast the top three posters in each category will receive a cash award and plaque; regional and state winners will receive a certificate.

Judging criteria is found on the NACAA website for participants to consider prior to preparing their posters. Poster scores will be made available to all participants at the “Poster Session Awards Breakfast.”

Current regional vice-chairs are: North Central Region, Eric Barrett; North East Region, Mike Haberland; Southern Region, Gene McAvoy; and Western Region, Mylen Bohle. The Professional Excellence committee is responsible for organizing and conducting the poster session before and during the AM/PIC. It takes a lot of dedication and work to make this happen and without the regional vice-chairs and state chairs the poster session 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 17 examples of outstanding quality and public relations work. There is a tremendous amount of great work that many are 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 2017. Congratulations to Norman E. Harrell, Jr. from North Carolina, who is the A4 program National winner. Norman will present his winning entry during the A4 awards recognition luncheon on the Wilson Regional Ag Summit. Congratulations also go National finalists Carol Schurman from Pennsylvania and Susan Kerr from Washington. Regional winner is Deryn Davidson from Colorado. State winners are Libby Eiholzer from New York, Julia Smith from Vermont, Frank Dowdle from Florida, Steve Pettis from Georgia, Gregory K. Drake, Jr. from Kentucky, Bill Burdine from Mississippi, and Rachel Grosse from Virginia.

A sincere thank you to all of the Public Relations Committee regional and 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 2017. The Public Relations committee challenges each of you to submit an entry in the NACAA awards programs especially A4.

A special thank you to NACAA Board of Directors for sponsoring the Agriculture Awareness and Appreciation Award this year. This is my final year as National Chair of the committee and I have enjoyed my time working with our Regional Chairs and reviewing all of the great programming our agents are doing across the country.

## Recognition & Awards

Stephen Hadcock  
New York



The committee welcomed new Vice Chairs Amber Yutzy as Northeast Vice Chair and Donna Hoffman as Western Vice Chair. Both of these ladies became quickly involved in committee work and providing input. Keith Perkins and Joni Harper have continued their service to the committee too. As the “old pros,” Keith and Joni provided great leadership in their respective regions.

Making our jobs easier are the many state Recognition and Awards State Chairs. The state chairs helped to make our jobs easier this year with the cooperation and adherence to deadlines set by our committee. On behalf of the National Committee, I extend our sincere thanks to them.

On Tuesday morning, 62 Achievement Award recipients will receive their awards at a Breakfast in their honor. This is the 42nd year that NACAA has presented this award with this year’s recipients joining 2,049 fellow Achievement Awards winners. The 2016 Achievement Award winners have demonstrated their ability to conduct high quality programming for their clientele, gaining the respect of co-workers for their work. Achievement Award recipients have accomplished this in less than 10 years. A special thank you goes to NACAA President Cynthia Gregg and American Income Life’s Bill Viar, who will assist with the awards presentation on Tuesday morning.

This year is the 78th year our national professional organization is presenting the Distinguished Service Award. This year’s recipients will be recognized Wednesday evening at the Annual Banquet. The Distinguished Service Award will be presented to 60 NACAA members from across the country. These members were chosen by their respective states to receive one of the highest awards presented by NACAA in 2016 and join 7,211 past recipients. These DSA recipients are being recognized for providing outstanding educational programming, are respected by their clientele and co-workers, and have worked for more than ten years.

The Committee is tasked to facilitate the selection of Hall of Fame recipients each year. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year for this prestigious award. Four outstanding Hall of Fame winners will receive their awards on Monday’s general session. The recipients have been recognized with awards during for their outstanding work as an Extension Educator and for being involved in their communities. They have provided leadership for professional organizations, churches, and humanitarian service organizations. This year’s inductees

make one proud to be a member of NACAA.

The committee wishes to thank the Ag Pipeline Alliance for continuing the financial support for the Hall of Fame award. The committee expresses our appreciation for the continued support of the Achievement Awards Breakfast by American Income Life Insurance Company for 56 years and they have provided sponsorship for 61 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.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation for the honor to serve as Chair of this committee. One cannot but feel pride and the sense of accomplishment when reading the abstracts of this year’s recipients. They all are entitled to this recognition and the committee is proud to do what we can to make it happen.

## Scholarship

Dwane Miller  
Pennsylvania



Report to the Membership –  
Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee is charged with the responsibility of promoting the scholarship program by obtaining funds from NACAA members, friends of NACAA, and others interested in the scholarship effort. The committee works with the NACAA Educational Foundation to award scholarships for professional development to NACAA members. Primary activities include: promotion, review, and awarding of scholarships; administering the live and silent auction at the AM/PIC; and soliciting donations to the scholarship program through various means. I would like to say thank you to the members of the Scholarship Committee for their hard work during the past year: Wayne Flanary, North Central Region Vice-Chair; Sheila Gray, West Region Vice-Chair; Brian Haller, Southern Region Vice-Chair; David Handley, Northeast Region Vice-Chair; Charles Moody, Life Member Representative, and all of the state chairs. I would also like to recognize the NACAA Educational Foundation for their help and support of the scholarship program. Through their guidance and stewardship of the investments, we continue to be able to provide funding for excellent professional development activities.

The scholarship committee continues to work with state scholarship chairs to encourage donations to the scholarship program. During the period of May 16, 2015 through May 15, 2016, NACAA members and friends contributed \$24,213.50 to the scholarship program. This represents an increase of over \$2,786 from a year ago - thank you all for your

generous support! We had another tremendously successful scholarship auction at our AM/PIC in Sioux Falls, which raised \$11,746. This past year, 8 individual and 2 group scholarships were awarded for continuing education and professional development, in the amount of \$12,900.

The Scholarship Committee would like to recognize the following members for reaching designated giving levels to the NACAA Scholarship Program during the period of May 16, 2015 through May 15, 2016. Certificates of appreciation will be awarded to these members during the regional meetings at the Little Rock AM/PIC:

**\$100-\$249**

North Central Region: Kapil Arora, Beth Berlin, Brad M. Carlson, Wm Bruce Clevenger, Jeffery L. Davidson, Francis John Hay, Mark A. Landefeld, Brenda Miller, Aaron J.H. Nygren, Dennis L. Patton, Randy Pryor, Brian L. Rees, Todd Whitney and Emily Wilmes

Northeast Region: Elizabeth Claypoole and Erin Frederick

Southern Region: Scott Baker, Peter L. Callan, Karen F. Carter, Robert Clark, C. Taylor Clarke, Jeff Cook, Brittany Council, Joseph E. Dillard, Debbie Dillion, Brian Freking, Brian W. Haller, Cindy M. Ham, Mary Elizabeth Henry, Robert Conway Hochmuth, John Howe, Brad Jarvis, Brian Jervis, Bruce G. Jones, Lauren Langley, Danny Lauderdale, James Wes Lee, Rodney Leech, Leland McDaniel, David Moore, Joshua B. Payne, Keith Perkins, Scott Reiter, Christopher J. Richards, Kyle Robinson, Lenny Rogers, Stephanie Romelczyk, Nicholas Simmons, Cary Sims, Glenn Slade, Carl Stafford, Will Strader, John G. Thompson, Sr., Lindy Tucker, Keegan Varner and Anita Webb

West Region: Sergio Arispe, Jeffrey E. Banks, C. Kim Chapman, Catherine H. Daniels, Aaron D. Esser, W.F. “Frank” Hendrix, and Donna Cuin Hoffman

**\$250-\$499**

North Central Region: Randy D. Saner

Northeast Region: Donna Coffin, Laurel R. Gailor, Kathryn M. Hopkins, Peter J. Nitzsche, Virginia Rosenkranz, and Julie Smith

Southern Region: Brent Allen and C.P. Chihasz

**\$500-\$999**

North Central Region: Chris L. Bruynis and Parman R. Green

Northeast Region: Robert L. Jones and Joan S. Petzen

Southern Region: James C. Cowden, Laura Griffeth and Jamie Jenkins

**\$1,000-\$2,499**

North Central Region: Neil Broadwater and Robin Salverson

Northeast Region: Paul H. Craig, Stephen E. Hadcock and Daniel Kluchinski

Southern Region: Frank L. Fitzsimons

Western Region: Janet L. Schmidt

**\$2,500-\$4,999**

Southern Region: Keith Mickler

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 electronically completed on the NACAA website. Deadline for applications is June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- In order to be eligible for up to \$1,000 in awards, members need to be vested at \$40 in the scholarship program. Members need to be vested at \$100 to be eligible for up to \$2,000 in awards. This contribution must be made before the end of the previous year’s AM/PIC to qualify (ex: contribution must be received by the end of the 2016 AM/PIC to apply for an award in 2017).
- Other criteria can be found at the NACAA website under the “Awards” tab.

Vestment in the scholarship program 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 special cash drawing, held at the AM/PIC. Non-winning tickets receive credit for a donation to the scholarship program.
- Some states have auctions or other fundraisers in which they designate proceeds towards the NACAA Scholarship Program.
- Direct donations by individuals. You can also directly donate online with a credit card! Simply visit the NACAA website and scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on “Donate to the NACAA Educational Foundation – Scholarship”

The process of submitting applications is still continuing. All applications that have been submitted by the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline will be reviewed by the scholarship committee at the 2016 AM/PIC in Little Rock. Please consider bringing an item or two for this year’s auction, and taking a chance to win some cash!

## Life Member

Tom Benton  
Texas



The Life Member Team consists of Doug Warnock, Neil Broadwater, Russell Duncan and Gene Schurman who serve as Life Member Regional Chairs.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation for the work they have done. Melvin Brees and Dave Phillips will be joining the Life Member team next year.

I am looking forward to presenting at the State Officers workshop in Little Rock to stress the importance of active life member chairs in each state to keep all life members active and informed. We must remember that our life members are retired but still are willing to help and support in many ways.

Each year the NACAA Life members who have gone before us are honored at the life member's business meeting with a memorial service. We will conduct a memorial again this year at the AM/PIC in Little Rock.

We are still seeking a Life Members program sponsor. The sponsor would have a great opportunity 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 the committee know.

I trust that you have made plans to attend the 2016 NACAA meetings in Little Rock. A full schedule of life member activities has been planned by the Arkansas Agents and especially the Life Member Committee. Tours and activities will keep you busy. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Many thanks to the NACAA board for the support given the life members. We are ready to assist you and NACAA in anyway that we can.

## Journal of NACAA

Stephen Brown  
Alaska



More than 30 articles from our members were published in the December 2015 and June 2016 issues of the Journal of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. It has been truly impressive to see how many of our author's articles have been cited in other journals, national magazines and newspapers!

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: [nacaa.com/journal](http://nacaa.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.

The June 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the Journal concludes my two terms and six years as Editor. The new Editor will be Lee Stivers of Pennsylvania and we have been working closely to make the transition a seamless one. It has been a tremendous honor and I would like to thank all of the past and present National Peer Reviewers for making my tenure a successful one!

### Thanks to 2015/2016 Journal of the NACAA National Peer Reviewers

- Nicole Anderson – Oregon
- Dr. Sergio Arispe – Oregon
- Cesar Asuaje – Florida
- William Bamka – New Jersey
- Derek Barber – Florida
- Pamela Bennett – Ohio
- Dr. Jerry Bertoldo – New York
- Sarah Bertrand – Louisiana
- Carol Bishop – Nevada
- Chris Bruynis – Ohio
- Beth Burritt – Utah
- Carl Cantaluppi – North Carolina
- Brent Carpenter – Missouri
- Dr. Gordon Carriker – Missouri
- Dr. Michael Davis – Florida
- Dr. Kathryn Dodge – Alaska
- Wayne Flanary – Missouri
- Linden Greenhalgh – Utah
- Adele Harty – South Dakota
- Michael Heimer – Texas
- Steven Hines – Idaho
- James Hoorman – Ohio
- Richard Kersbergen – Maine
- Dr. Susan Kerr – Washington
- James Keyes – Utah
- Jeremy Kichler – Georgia
- Stephen Komar – New Jersey
- Dr. Rocky Lemus – Mississippi
- Dr. Ayanava Majumbar – Alabama
- Salvatore Mangiafico – New Jersey

- David Marrison – Ohio
- Dr. Casey Matney – Alaska
- Jeff McCutcheon – Ohio
- Keith Mickler – Georgia
- Dr. Charles Mitchell – Alabama
- Tracy Mosley – Montana
- Barbara Murphy - Maine
- Kurt Nolte – Arizona
- Rebekah Norman – Tennessee
- John Nottingham – Maryland
- Dr. Andy Overbay – Virginia
- Frank Owsley – Alabama
- Michael Pace – Utah
- Dr. Angeliqe Peltier – Illinois
- Chris Penrose – Ohio
- Marjorie Peronto – Maine
- Heidi Rader – Alaska
- Cindy Sanders – Florida
- Hans Schmitz – Indiana
- Dr. Bill Sciarappa – New Jersey
- Mary Carol Sheffield – Georgia
- Dr. Bill Shockey – West Virginia
- Dr. Julie Smith – Vermont
- Mark Stewart – Missouri
- Lee Stivers – Pennsylvania
- William Strader – North Carolina
- Gary Strickland – Oklahoma
- Dr. Ann Swinker – Pennsylvania
- Dr. Stephen Van Vleet – Washington
- Richard Van Vranken – New Jersey
- Todd Weinmann – North Dakota
- Michael Wheeler – Georgia
- Tim Wilson – Florida
- Jeff Wilson – Mississippi
- John Wilson – Nebraska
- Gary Zoubek - Nebraska

## Extension Journal, Inc.

Keith Mickler  
Georgia



Countless appreciation is extended to the NACAA officers and board for their longtime support of my representing our association on the Extension Journal, Inc. (EJI) board. Currently I am serving as Past-President for Extension Journal, Inc.

### Journal of Extension

*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 the reviewers. Should your paper be published in *JOE*, consider that a huge achievement.

The Journal of Extension remains a rigorous, refereed journal for Extension professionals. It has over one million visitors

2015 was a barn burner of a year for *JOE*. We received 334 submissions; our all-time high and 11 submissions more than in 2014 when we tied our previous high of 323 submissions. For more on the numbers, see the February 2016 Editor's Page, "*JOE* by the Numbers 2015" found at: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2016february/ed1.php>

You can also find the top 50 most read articles for 2015 at: <http://www.joe.org/website-statistics/top-articles-2015.php>. Tracking of the top 50 most read articles goes back to 2005.

If you are interested in being a reviewer and have **breadth** across several areas as well as **depth** of expertise, please visit *JOE*: <http://www.joe.org/about-faqs.php#rp01>. You can apply to become a *JOE* reviewer by sending the name and e-mail address of a reference who can speak to your ability to serve as a reviewer and a file containing your curriculum vitae to Robert Ricard at: [robert.ricard@uconn.edu](mailto:robert.ricard@uconn.edu).

### TIME FOR A NEW EDITOR

In late 2014 EJI president (at that time) Dr. Michelle Rodgers along with Past-President Dr. Joseph Donaldson set the pathway to find a new editor to replace the longtime *JOE* editor Dr. Laura Hoelscher who would be retiring on December 31, 2015.

A search committee was appointed with Terry Meisenbach chosen to lead the committee. The search committee consisted of Dr. Karen Cannon, Dr. Debra Maddy, Dr. Eli Sagor, and me. Over the course of nine months the search committee sought candidates for the editor position. After two rounds of interviews, very thorough screening of the candidates and references (provide and non-provided), the search committee presented their recommendation for the next *JOE* editor to the EJI board of directors.

At the September 2015 EJI board of directors meeting; Debbie Allen was appointed new editor for *JOE*, effective January 1, 2016. I encourage each of you to meet the new editor by visiting the *JOE* website at the following link: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2016february/ed1.php>

### National Job Bank

Extension Journal, Inc.'s additional 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 allows the job seekers free registration and accounts, quick access to employers that are ready to hire, ability to communicate to employers online, and alerts when a relevant job becomes available. Employers to search through and find key individuals for positions they wish to fill.

**TIME TO FIND A NEW REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EJI BOARD**

On a somewhat somber note, I will be retiring from the EJI board of directors on December 31, 2016. I have proudly represented and served as the NACAA's representative to the EJI board since January 1, 2007. I hope I represented our organization well, with poise and dignity.

Over the past 10 years I have served in the capacity of marketing chair, treasurer, and president's rotation. It has been a wonderful experience and a great opportunity to serve with other members of the Extension family from across our nation. The friendships and contacts I have made are absolutely priceless.

Serving as the NACAA representative on the EJI board has truly been an honor and privilege.

**Outstanding Young Farmer**

Ray Hicks  
Georgia



*National Outstanding Farmers of America*

If you want to get reenergized, just get involved with the Outstanding Young Farmer program. I recently was awarded the Special Assignment to be the liaison between NACAA and this great program. Having been involved with this program a little with nominating two past top ten applicants I was somewhat aware of its existence. But little did I realize just how wide spread this program is. The Outstanding Farmers of America Organization is made up of past nominees of the program. It is designed to facilitate an exchange of ideas and friendship that encourages excellence and involvement in agriculture and the local, state, and national community. There are approximately 1,500 members across the nation who utilize their connections with each other in a strong networking format to assist farmers and promote the importance of America's farming community.

The National Outstanding Young Farmers program is administered by the Outstanding Farmers of America and

supported by NACAA, John Deere and the United States Junior Chamber. Applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 40, deriving a minimum of two-thirds of their income from farming. They are judged on progress in agricultural career, extent of soil and water conservation practices, and contributions to the well-being of the community, state and nation.

Seeing these young people interact and become friends is inspiring. They all come from different backgrounds but have a common cause in deriving their livelihood from agriculture. They share heartaches and triumphs alike. They listen to the older alumni and learn from them. It's like a big family.

At the 2016 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Congress, 18 of the 23 nominations were made by NACAA agents which resulted in 3 of the top 4 candidates who thanked their Extension Agents for their help in getting nominated. NACAA is doing an outstanding job of recognizing these young farmers but we need to keep on encouraging these to fill out the nomination forms. The 2017 Congress will be held in Greenville, South Carolina. Applications for the program are due August 1 and be found at <http://ofafaternity.org/id13.html>.

I look forward in representing NACAA during my assignment. For more info please feel free to contact me at Ray Hicks, [rhicks@uga.edu](mailto:rhicks@uga.edu), (912) 682-8670.

**Executive Director**

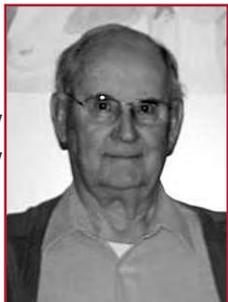
Scott Hawbaker  
Illinois



Another year has gone by with outstanding achievements and accomplishments by many NACAA members. Congratulations to all award winners, selected presenters, and the leadership at the state, regional and national levels. It has been my pleasure to once again work with you throughout the year, making NACAA the greatest professional improvement association for agriculture educators. A special thank you to all of the Agri-businesses who continue to show such generosity in supporting NACAA. Financial support is critical to NACAA's success in being able to offer professional development and improvement opportunities to agents/educators/specialists across the country. A special thanks to the Arkansas Association for planning an outstanding AM/PIC in Little Rock, it's been a pleasure working with you!

## “Bill, do you need this?”

By: William Harryman,  
Retired Illinois Extension Agent



*There are several constant traits of retired Extension employees that make them good agents, and seem to control their retirement. Specifically agents have a quest for knowledge, “why does this do that or work?” they enjoy helping people solve problems; and they seem to have a fairly high resistance to chaos. After all, most have worked in the public, for a governmental/ quasi-governmental agency. Here is my story.*

It was a typical gray Illinois spring day. I had left an in-service on campus to drive across the state for an annual evaluation. The In-Service was good, lots of worthwhile information to share with our clientele. However, no one there was “excited” or upbeat. We had recently learned of another downsizing of Illinois Extension. Rumor had it that our office would be closed and my choices were to relocate or commute 60 to 100 miles daily.

With 36 years invested in the retirement system, my Regional Director, during the interview, asked, “Bill, do you need this?” Without thinking I replied, “No!” and thirty days later, the Decker Spring Garden Railroad was born. Yes, we built an out-door garden railroad. It was a logical extension of the horticultural work I’d been doing during my 30 years of Extension. I liked plants and felt that landscaping a miniature railroad would be fun. It has been! In our case it would require lots of “new knowledge,” and a bunch of hard work.

As we started the railroad, “Extension” tendrils reached out and grabbed me. Our county office had been working with the community to try to initiate a Main Street program. We’d not been able to generate much interest despite having attended several state wide workshops about Main Street and “how great it is.” About a month after retiring, I saw an article in the paper about a Main Street pre-organization meeting. Being curious I attended. The

upshot, Taylorville Main Street was launched and 19 years later we still have a Main Street program in the community, and I am the first Past President of said group.

Retirement can include many things one had been doing during working years as well. Early in my time in Christian County, Il. I was teaching the area of land use, zoning and forward planning. The Mayor of the community said: “You’ve been preaching about zoning for a while, here’s a chance to try it!” And he appointed me as Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals and a Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. I mention this because 19 years of my 38 year tenure on the zoning group have been during retirement. During this time, we shepherded three comprehensive city plans to completion. “Zoning” was another Extension related tendril that required skills that I’d used for my 30 year Extension career. Plus, it was fun.

Because of the railroad hobby, we’ve had a lot of experiences that have made our retirement marvelous. The establishment of the railroad speaks for itself. Other skills we’ve used and learned include landscaping, planning, laying track, and learning how to raise fish in our pond. I only had two wipe outs, one from copper sulphate, which I knew was toxic to fish, but the little crystal I put on the waterfall was bigger than I realized. And the other was when we left the hose on while we visited grandchildren for the weekend – we chlorinated the fish!

*continued on page 30*



My large scale train is outdoors which presents a number of different problems. Many layouts are indoors, eliminating the need to make everything weather proof. Model trains need buildings, so leaning minor carpentry skills became necessary, trains run on electricity, and now they are controlled by computer and wireless hand held controls. These introduce a whole bunch of new skills that were needed to be learned. I should say that some of these skills still need to be learned, some aren't coming quickly. And, if one is a bit OCD, the train can/will consume all the time one wants to spend, and a bunch of time that wasn't budgeted for the train.

Other facets of the hobby include model train clubs satisfying the need to help people solve problems. The clubs are local and national. We joined the closest train club we could find as we started the hobby. It is 4 hours away so we don't get there too often. The national club didn't have regular meetings, but does have nice annual gatherings clustered around railroad topics. Through these we've met a number of very nice people who have similar interests.

As Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, I did not have a Board Secretary for a number of years and knew the frustration of trying to record the meeting as I ran it. I took pity on the Big Train Operators Club. They were having meetings with no Secretary and having trouble getting minutes written. I volunteered. Four years later, I

was "elected" President where I now sit. "Oh, it won't take much time" I was told. "Malarkey!" But we have made some good friends through the club underlining the Extension adage "To gain the most, get involved!" Remember teletext? That's how we do our quarterly meetings, through an internet switchboard that links us all together.

While all this was going on, my wife kept having a dream in which she was told "Feed my Sheep!" (John 21:17) The net result of this dream was that we ran a 13 year mentoring program through our church in which we met weekly with 30 students that needed supplemental tutoring or some kind of support. We recruited volunteers for one on one tutoring with the kids. Many of our volunteers were retired 4-H leaders or grandparents whose families had relocated. The program was set up to help the children, but as time past, we are learning that mentoring provided a lot of support, fellowship, and benefit to the adults. Planning, organizing, and finding materials, for 30 kids, for 7 months a year and soliciting volunteers takes time, utilizes most of the same skills as running a 4-H program and is a logical extension for retired extension workers.

When asked by people looking at the retirement decision, "Aren't you bored during retirement?" I have to answer "No, with all I'm doing, I don't know how I found time to work!" Despite all this, I still have to say, "It's the best decision I've ever made!"

## Call for 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 2-4 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 [ljs32@psu.edu](mailto:ljs32@psu.edu) (Lee Stivers) addressing the points above including your subject matter areas.

**CHECK OUT OUR  
WEB SITE**

**[www.nacaa.com](http://www.nacaa.com)**

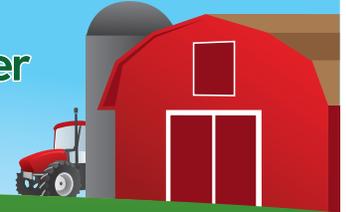
**For the latest news &  
information regarding  
NACAA meetings,  
membership database  
updates, award  
submissions/recognition,  
NACAA Supporters and  
the list goes on....  
and on...and on!**

Join the Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance in our effort to protect your clients and our environment.

Access the agents toolbox at  
[PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com](http://PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com)

chris@emailir.com | 612.386.8858

Lets  
 Grow  
 Safely Together



Fewer than **1 in 15**

farmers with pipelines on their land have EVER called 811 or notified a pipeline operator before digging (18%).

2.2 Million  
 Farms in America

2.6 Million  
 Miles of pipeline in America

1 Call  
 Keeps them both safe



Millions in developing nations lack access to basic eye care services. Host an eyeglass drive in your state or county & **bring your old eyeglasses** to the NACAA AM/PIC

Little Rock, Arkansas July 24-28, 2016



<http://bit.ly/195Ql49>



## Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

October, 2016

December, 2016

April, 2017

Post AM/PIC Edition

Awards/Committee Directory

AM/PIC Registration Edition

Deadline for Articles: September 1, 2016

Deadline for articles: December 1, 2016

Deadline for articles: February 16, 2017

Mail Date: September 20, 2016

Mail Date: December 28, 2016

Mail Date: March 20, 2017

# 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

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

2018  
Chattanooga, Tennessee.....July 29-Aug. 2

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

2019  
Forth Wayne, Indiana .....September 8-12

Use your QR Code Scanner to Have the 2016 Conference  
Information at Your Fingertips.



<http://bit.ly/NACAA16>

<http://bit.ly/NACAA16F>

<http://bit.ly/NACAA16T>