

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
LCAAA Winter Meeting
December 14, 2005
Distance Ed Facility Knapp Hall**

Meeting called to order at 1:10 pm by President Kenny Sharpe. In the absence of Secretary Brian Chandler, President Sharpe asked James Devillier to record minutes for the board meeting.

Roll call indicated the following members at distance ed sites, Eddie White and Jason Holmes at Calhoun; Chuck Griffith at Red River; John Chaney, Matt Martin at Dean Lee; Rusty Batty, J. B. Anders, Stefan Givens and Henry Harrison at St. Tammany; Karen Blackburn at Orleans/Jefferson; R. L. Frazier, Myrl Sistrunk and Richard Letlow at West Carroll; Stuart Gauthier and Stan Dutile at Rice; Kenny Sharpe, Eddie Eskew, Allen Hogan, Jerry Whatley, Keith Normand, Ron Strahan, Ed Twidwell, Terrence Marshall, Dale Pollet, Alfred Guidry and James Devillier at Knapp Hall.

MINUTES---On a motion by Jerry Whatley, seconded by Allen Hogan and carried unanimously, the minutes of the June 7, 2005 board meeting were accepted as corrected and E-mailed to all board members and membership.

FINANCIAL REPORT---Keith Normand, Treasurer, E-mailed the financial report to all board members several days prior to this meeting. He highlighted several areas of our financial condition and for the most part our financial, condition is excellent. See the report in Appendix A. Allen Hogan moved to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Keith Normand and carried.

AWARDS PROGRAM---Eddie Eskew reported on the 2006 DSA/AA awards program. Voting has been completed for the 2006 DSA/AA awards. Winners are:

DSA - Carlos Smith
R. L. Frazier

AA - Ron Strahan
Boris Castro

A total of 47 votes were cast for the final balloting. For the second year in a row, we missed having a third DSA - by 2 members in 2004 and one member in 2005.

One problem in recent years has been a misunderstanding by members of how they become eligible and secondly that they don't withdraw their names until after voting has taken place. A recommendation for the board to consider at the spring board meeting would be to notify those agents eligible for these awards and then have them accept their name to be on the ballot before the ballots go out. Keith Normand asked the question why

don't people want their name on the ballot. Eligibility is 10 years membership or more for DSA and 5-10 years membership for AA.

We must have 125 paid members by January 1 for 3 DSA recipients. The challenge for the board is to get dues paid on time and increase the membership. In 2004, we had 127 paid members and on March 15, 2005 only 124 paid members, therefore we gave up 1 DSA recipient.

NACAA VICE-DIRECTOR'S REPORT---James Devillier brought greetings from the officers and directors of NACAA. On behalf of the national officers and board members, we express our heartfelt gratitude that God has spared the lives of our Extension colleagues in the Gulf Coast Region. Through the efforts of Mickey Cummings, NACAA President, the officers and membership of NACAA, the NACAA sent \$26,200 to NASULGC to help Extension agents affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Similar efforts are being conducted by our JCEP partners----NEAFCS and NAE4-HA.

AM/PIC---The Northeast host committee reported over 1500 registration for the national meeting. Of that number, 595 registrants were from the Southern Region and 41 from Louisiana including 16 agents, two first-timers, three old-timers, and 20 spouses, children and guests. Congratulations to Dr. Ed Twidwell and Alfred Guidry for receiving the DSA award and to Denyse Cummins and Jimmy Flanagan for receiving the AA award. Dirk Webb, Oklahoma is the new Southern Region Vice-Director and a valuable addition to the Southern Region leadership team.

Scholarship---The scholarship auction as well as donations added \$11,621.00 to the scholarship fund. Keith Normand, County Agent St. Landry Parish received a NACAA \$1000 scholarship to further his knowledge in grain crop production.

JCEP Southern Region Leadership Conference---The Southern Region Leadership Conference is to be held February 1-3, 2006 at the Double Tree Hotel in Nashville, TN. Registration is available online at www.jcep.org for all the officers attending from your state association.

PILD---The PILD conference is scheduled for April 24-27, 2006 and will be held at the Marriott Crystal City in Crystal City, VA. Online registration is also available at the JCEP website.

Finally, the NACAA officers and board members are holding their winter board meeting beginning tomorrow in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Ohio/Kentucky agents and volunteers are working diligently to provide a memorable experience for you at the 2006 AM/PIC to be held July 23-27 in Cincinnati. Your board has worked very hard in the past few months reviewing the past and making plans for the future.

On behalf of the officers, senior board members and me, I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. God has tested our mettle and with His Grace, we have survived and are moving forward. Thank-you.

OLD BUSINESS

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT---Jerry Whatley reported on the LCAAA annual meeting held last June in Sulphur, LA. Jerry reported that the meeting was a success and that the committee did an excellent job in providing new and different programs for the membership. Registration included 47 members, 20 spouses and 5 children. Seven members registered on site.

Jerry Whatley presented board members with copies of several years annual reports and stated that it is the secretary's responsibility to write and publish the annual report. Several board members cited the need for everyone especially committee chairs to submit reports especially since we can now do this electronically.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT---Richard Letlow stated that there were 13 applicants for the new LCAAA Scholarship. Sarah Batty, daughter of Rusty Batty was the recipient. The recipient of the LCAAA College of Agriculture Scholarship was Benjamin Greene, a student at LSU planning to major in Vet Science and a grandson of Dr. Buck Greene retired dairy specialist and Associate Director.

There were quite a few compliments from agents about the new scholarship and its requirements that open it to any 4-H'er enrolling in any Louisiana college or university majoring in any field.

NACAA Scholarship forms can be found on the website of the association. That address is: <http://nacaa.com/ProfImpr/2005%20Scholarship%20Form.pdf>. Applications must be turned in to Richard Letlow, and then sent to the Regional Director who is J.J. Jones of Perry Oklahoma. Keith Normand, St. Landry Parish was awarded this scholarship in 2005.

FACULTY COUNCIL UPDATE---Jerry Whatley representative on the council stated that no meeting has been held lately. There was excellent participation in the last election especially by Extension agents and it was pointed out that 40% of the council members were also LCAAA members. There are several new faces on the council---Dale Pollet and Miles Brashier are newly elected council members.

JCEP MEMORIAL---No action has been taken on this project in the past year.

LCAAA HANDBOOK UPDATE---Bill Branch indicated that the handbook is available electronically and an update is in the works.

NEW BUSINESS

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES---Keith Normand stated that there are 39 paid members to date and asked that senior board members submit collection sheets and receipts. R. L. Frazier stated that Gina Eubanks is encouraging SU Agriculture Extension faculty members to join LCAAA. Board members at other sites reported on their collections---

Myrl 3 dues in hand, Eddie White 10 in hand, Matt Martin 3 in hand, Terrence Marshall 5 in hand. All board members and officers are encouraged to collect dues and e-mail Keith Normand when dues are collected and commitments made to join LCAAA.

The board discussed the by-law which governs membership in LCAAA. All agents conducting agriculture educational programs or related activities including administration are eligible to join LCAAA.

SOUTHERN REGION LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP---Neither the President nor the President-Elect can attend this meeting due to district livestock shows. President Sharpe asked that Vice-President Ed Twidwell and Secretary Brian Chandler represent LCAAA at this conference. In this vein, President Sharpe met with the Director and other professional association presidents. The director stated that he will continue to support sending 2 agents from each association to this meeting. However, the Director will only support 1 person to attend PILD. We as an organization will need to decide which officer to send to this year's meeting. The matter as to whom to send every year to PILD is deferred until the summer meeting.

NACAA Service to American/World Agriculture award application form will be available in the winter issue of *The County Agent*.

President Sharpe is trying to run down records of LCAAA. Charles Overstreet is Historian of the organization. The need is for verification of membership in LCAAA by county agents and others who have retired or are deceased.

Committee reports and assignments were discussed by President Sharpe. Allen Hogan stated that the winter issue of *The County Agent* has the awards program applications. He also stated that there is a serious lack of communication between national committee chairs and state chairs.

NACAA Scholarship Contributions---President Sharpe has a document of Louisiana contributors as of the Buffalo meeting and anyone who wants a statement of their contributions can contact him.

LCAAA input to LSU AgCenter funding was discussed by Allen Hogan who indicated that a formal report was presented to the directors of Extension and Research early last summer (2005). This report was sent to LCAAA membership and administrators via e-mail (Appendix B). Directors Coreil and Boethel addressed this topic at the LCAAA annual meeting last June.

LCAAA 2006 AM/PIC---Rusty Batty, 2006 annual meeting chair, stated that the 2006 AM/PIC will be held June 4-7, 2006. The meeting headquarters is the Holiday Inn in Covington. Teams of agents are busy developing tours and programs for spouses, children, retired Agents and LCAAA membership.

LCAA Website---President Sharpe has contacted Fred Piazza to discuss a LCAA Internet website. Eddie Eskew and Dale Pollet volunteered to help President Sharpe with the development of a web page.

There being no further business and on a motion by Allen Hogan, seconded by Alfred Guidry and carried, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Appendix A

LCAAA Financial Report 12/14/05

11/30/05

Account # 1, Savings - \$1,215.04
Account # 2, Checking - \$7,915.14
Account # 27, Scholarship Savings - \$1,103.51
Account # 15, CD - \$62,867.31

Income – Account #2 – Checking (6/1/05 – 11/30/05)

Annual Meeting Income	-	\$3,640.66
Dues	-	600.00
Interest	-	<u>5.83</u>
Total		\$4,246.49

Expense – Account #2 – Checking (6/1/05 – 11/30/05)

4-H U Luncheon	524.48
Annual Meeting	4,508.90
Awards	236.39
Achievement Award Winners	200.00
DSA Winners	200.00
Dues to NACAA	50.00
Officers attending NACAA	300.00
Voting Delegates NACAA	<u>500.00</u>
Total	\$6,519.77

2005 Annual Meeting

Total Income - \$7,455.66
Total Expense - \$5,358.90
Surplus \$2,096.76

No activity in other three accounts except for dividend deposits and scholarship auction deposits in account #27. Will be paying \$500 scholarship to 2005 winner soon.

Appendix B

Report on Program Prioritization Recommendations From Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association

Areas of High Priority

Staffing – An effective field staff in each parish office is a necessity. Parish-based extension programming is essential to meeting the LSU AgCenter’s mission and maintaining its political base of support. Most citizens are aware of the AgCenter through the local parish office. To lose that presence would mean a loss of that support.

ANR – Each parish should have a resident County Agent to address all calls and visits from parish residents. This agent may be a specialized agent in one area, but he or she must also be sufficiently familiar with all areas of agricultural importance in that parish. This presence is of primary importance if we are to maintain our visibility within our community. Agents with multi-parish responsibilities alone may be needed in highly specialized areas such as Forestry, Aquaculture and Commercial Horticulture.

4-H – Each parish should have a sufficiently staffed presence of 4-H agents. The 4-H program is one of the most visible components of the LSU AgCenter. The number of agents staffed to 4-H in a given parish would depend on the scope of the program in that parish, but each parish should have at least one agent whose primary responsibility is the 4-H program in that parish. Administration may need to consider the number of regional and campus faculty dealing with 4-H programs and make personnel adjustments to assure that the entire state is adequately served. Louisiana 4-H is unique in that it is co-curricular with the public school system. This arrangement is of benefit to both and must be maintained.

Applied Research – Applied agricultural research must be maintained. A great deal of this research is conducted at the branch stations. It must be research that is relevant to the problems that producers are facing. This type of research may not be held in the highest regard by some in the academic community, but it is what producers support with their tax and check-off dollars. Basic research is also essential, but should be primarily conducted within departments on campus through industry and competitive grant funding.

Tenured Extension Faculty – This group formerly known as “Specialist” have been the link between researchers and field agents. Whether housed in a department or on a branch station, their number should be at least maintained. As the number of field agents has decreased and parish responsibilities have increased, it is more important than ever to have access to specific subject matter resource people. These faculty members should have 100% extension appointments. Additional duties in research or teaching tend to dilute their effectiveness in their primary area of responsibility.

Areas of Lower Priority

Economic Development and Social Programs – These programs can be handled by other organizations, business groups or government agencies. The AgCenter's activities in these areas may be seen as a duplication of effort. Faculty members with these responsibilities could be more effectively utilized in high priority areas – ANR and 4-H.

Urban Programs- With the exception of consumer horticulture, the AgCenter has very little in its expertise to offer this area that is not being offered by other agencies. Consumer horticulture is a very important part of the economy, especially in the heavily populated parishes. It can be a highly visible part of the AgCenter's program.

Other Areas

Regional Structure – Initially this restructuring was conducted to reduce administrative costs. The positions of Extension District Agent and Research Station Resident Director were replaced with a Regional Director. Since that time, a Station Site Coordinator has been named for each branch station. A 4-H Regional Coordinator has also been named for each region. The responsibilities of each position are largely administrative.

While these positions may be necessary for effective coordination of regional operations, these should also include a majority component of research, teaching or extension in the job description. At least one region has adopted this procedure (even the Regional Director has a large research responsibility). This would allow for more effective utilization of a smaller faculty workforce.

Fees for Services – To the limited extent it has been utilized, this has been successful for specific, high cost programs such as Master Cattle Producer, Master Horseman, Master Gardener, etc. A specific group of clientele interested in in-depth training is willing to pay out-of-pocket. This should be the criteria we use to determine which services are fee based.

Each university has its unique areas of strength and effectiveness. Ours are applied research, formal and informal teaching, community outreach and service. These strengths can best be utilized by maintaining a strong parish-based extension program and an effective branch- research station system.

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President Sharpe called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm.

A roll call of the distance ed sites registered the following membership: Eddie White and Jason Holmes at Calhoun; Chuck Griffith at Red River; John Chaney, Matt Martin at Dean Lee; Rusty Batty, J. B. Anders, Stefan Givens and Henry Harrison at St. Tammany; Karen Blackburn at Orleans/Jefferson; R. L. Frazier, Myrl Sistrunk and Richard Letlow at West Carroll; Stuart Gauthier and Stan Dutile at Rice; Kenny Sharpe, Eddie Eskew, Allen Hogan, Jerry Whatley, Keith Normand, Ron Strahan, Ed Twidwell, Terrence Marshall, Dale Pollet, Alfred Guidry and James Devillier at Knapp Hall.

In the absence of Brian Chandler, Secretary, President Sharpe asked James Devillier to record minutes for the regular membership meeting.

President Sharpe introduced Director Coreil for comments regarding the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service and the LSU AgCenter. Director Coreil opened his comments by stating that he felt at home with LCAAA as he was an active member and board member in his early career as an Extension Agent. He thanked all the agents for their heroic work helping Louisiana citizens work through and rebound from the tragic effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In regards to Extension personnel, 20 lost homes and belongings in those storms. All of which led to a third hurricane, the wreaking of the state budget. A special legislative session estimated a 1.2 billion dollar reduction in the state budget. Higher education saw its budget reduced by 70 million of which LSU is liable for 30 million. The Board of Regents gave suggested cuts to each institution and the AgCenter was hit with a 5.8% reduction or approximately 4.3 million dollars. At this point, the LSU Board of Supervisors has taken no action but is requiring that all campuses include an additional 1% cut (6.8% total) in their report due January 9, 2006. All positions are being held open and we are sending money back through vacancies.

Deborah Cross, President Epsilon Sigma Phi and Sharman Charles, President of LAEFCS brought greetings to LCAAA from their respective associations.

Keith Normand presented a financial report and indicated that this was emailed to all members prior to the meeting. The report can be found in Appendix A. On a motion by Jerry Whatley, seconded by Alfred Guidry, the report was accepted unanimously.

Eddie Eskew, Awards Committee Chair reported on the DSA/AA awards and winners for 2006. The winners are DSA---Carlos Smith and R. L. Frazier and AA---Ron Strahan and Boris Castro. Eddie also indicated that we need 125 paid members by March 15 to be able to have 3 DSA awards.

Jerry Whatley reported on the June 2005 AM/PIC and commended the annual meeting committee for a well prepared and presented program, meals and tours. He indicated that the environment has changed drastically since June. Dale Pollet moved to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Terrence Marshall and carried.

Alfred Guidry reported on his experience as a first-timer to a NACAA AM/PIC. He indicated it was an experience to remember and in particular noted the impressive opening ceremony, the professional improvement seminars, and the diversity of agriculture in New York. Alfred was impressed by the scope of the national association and highly recommends and encourages all LCAAA members to consider attending the NACAA AM/PIC.

Richard Letlow, scholarship chair, stated that there were 13 applicants for the new LCAAA Scholarship. Sarah Batty, daughter of Rusty Batty was the recipient. The recipient of the LCAAA College of Agriculture Scholarship was Benjamin Greene, a student at LSU planning to major in Vet Science and a grandson of Dr. Buck Greene retired dairy specialist and Associate Director. A total of \$1068 dollars for the scholarship fund was generated from the annual meeting scholarship auction.

Jerry Whatley stated that the Faculty Council had their last meeting for the year in November. Dale Pollet and Miles Brashier are newly elected Extension members to the council. Jerry Whatley was reelected to the council. Extension is well represented on the council and 40% of council members are also LCAAA members.

LCAAA will again sponsor the 4-H U luncheon for 4-H agents and leaders. Kenny Sharpe and James Devillier are co-chairs for this event. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the meal.

The JCEP Memorial is still on hold as reported by Dale Pollet. The administration is still interested in the project but funding is the major holdup to completing the project.

Bill Branch stated that he and Jerry Whatley worked on the LCAAA handbook which has been converted to MS Word. The handbook is 2 years out-of-date on officers, scholarship recipients, membership lists, etc. A membership list is needed especially for national records.

Keith Normand, Treasurer has collected 43 memberships for 2006 (several were collected at the just completed board meeting). R.L. Frazier, President-Elect and membership chair is actively helping Keith collect membership and encouraged all members to solicit new memberships and send the dues in as soon as possible.

James Devillier, Southern Region Vice-Director, brought greetings from the officers and directors of NACAA. On behalf of the national officers and board members, we express our heartfelt gratitude that God has spared the lives of our Extension colleagues in the Gulf Coast Region. Through the efforts of Mickey Cummings, NACAA President, the officers

and membership of NACAA, the NACAA sent \$26,200 to NASULGC to help Extension agents affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Similar efforts are being conducted by our JCEP partners---NEAFCS and NAE4-HA. AM/PIC---The Northeast host committee reported over 1500 registration for the national meeting. Of that number, 595 registrants were from the Southern Region and 41 from Louisiana including 16 agents, two first-timers, three old-timers, and 20 spouses, children and guests. Congratulations to Dr. Ed Twidwell and Alfred Guidry for receiving the DSA award and to Denyse Cummins and Jimmy Flanagan for receiving the AA award. Dirk Webb, Oklahoma is the new Southern Region Vice-Director and a valuable addition to the Southern Region leadership team. Scholarship---The scholarship auction as well as donations added \$11,621.00 to the scholarship fund. Keith Normand, County Agent St. Landry Parish received a NACAA \$1000 scholarship to further his knowledge in grain crop production. JCEP Southern Region Leadership Conference---The Southern Region Leadership Conference is to be held February 1-3, 2006 at the Double Tree Hotel in Nashville, TN. Registration is available online at www.jcep.org for all the officers attending from your state association. PILD---The PILD conference is scheduled for April 24-27, 2006 and will be held at the Marriott Crystal City in Crystal City, VA. Online registration is also available at the JCEP website. Finally, the NACAA officers and board members are holding their winter board meeting beginning tomorrow in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Ohio/Kentucky agents and volunteers are working diligently to provide a memorable experience for you at the 2006 AM/PIC to be held July 23-27 in Cincinnati. Your board has worked very hard in the past few months reviewing the past and making plans for the future.

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President Sharpe is trying to run down records of LCAAA. Charles Overstreet is Historian of the organization. The need is for verification of membership in LCAAA by county agents and others who have retired or are deceased. If anyone can help in this matter, let Kenny know what information you have in your files.

Committee reports and assignments were discussed by President Sharpe

President Sharpe has a document of Louisiana contributors to the NACAA scholarship fund as of the Buffalo meeting and anyone who wants a statement of their contributions can contact him. The list of contributors is being updated at the national level and should be current by the Cincinnati meeting.

LCAAA input to LSU AgCenter funding was discussed by Allen Hogan who indicated that a formal report was presented to the directors of Extension and Research early last summer. At this time there appears to be no need for any changes and we should let the

document stand and resend to our administrators. The other JCEP partners will prepare and send their own report. It was moved by Jerry Whatley, seconded by Myrl Sistrunk to continue with the present document and resend to our LSU AgCenter administrators. Motion carried without dissent.

Rusty Batty, 2006 annual meeting chair, stated that the 2006 LCAAA AM/PIC will be held June 4-7, 2006. The meeting headquarters is the Holiday Inn in Covington. Teams of agents are busy developing tours and programs for spouses, children, retired Agents and LCAAA membership. It was suggested to let the old timers know of the meeting now so they can make plans to attend if they so desire.

In new business, President Sharpe has contacted Fred Piazza to discuss a LCAAA Internet website. At the just concluded Board meeting Eddie Eskew and Dale Pollet volunteered to help President Sharpe with the development of a web page.

In other business related to our financial condition, Allen Hogan suggested that we consider the matter of the large certificate of deposit at the spring board meeting.

On a motion by Jerry Whatley, seconded by Dale Pollet and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.