

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

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.

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. R.L. Frazier will represent LCAAA.

NACAA Service to American/World Agriculture award application form will be available in the winter issue of *The County Agent* and LCAAA members are encouraged to nominate a worthy individual.

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.